

因華

第10期

04. 2011



免費贈閱 歡迎索取

50 South Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

TEL: (408) 942-0874
FAX: (408) 942-0639

www.huayenusa.org

禁止一切惡事，
具足莊嚴威儀。



工作人員

出版者：美國華嚴蓮社
發行人：釋天因
社長：釋天融

編輯：釋天寧
印刷：快答廣告印刷



世間無常 國土危脆
四大苦空 五陰無我
生滅變異 虛偽為主
心是惡源 形為罪藪
如是觀察 漸離生死



八大人覺經之第一覺





華嚴經·善財童子五十三參的故事

第二參 德雲比丘

賢度法師

文殊師利菩薩對於善財童子懇切的求法，深為感動。於是在他啟程之前，又再叮嚀他，參訪善知識不可以產生懈怠的心，要以虛心、恆心、誠懇恭敬的心去求學；尤其是恭敬心最重要，因為佛法是從恭敬中求得的。對於善知識的教誨，應該認真學習，對於他們的善巧方便，也不可妄加批評！因為菩薩為了普渡眾生，所使用的善巧方便，是隨著眾生的根器而有所不同，這些不是一般凡夫用膚淺的眼光所能了解的。

善男子，你要開始去尋找善知識，不能沒有一個方向，所以我先為你推薦一位親切的聖者，他所住的地方叫做勝樂國，你朝南方走去，就會看見一座山，叫做妙峰，山上住著一位德雲比丘，他有獨特的法門，可以指導你修行，你就放心的去吧！善財童子接受了文殊師利菩薩慈悲的指示，滿懷著欣喜，以無限感恩的心向他頂禮膜拜，然後告別了菩薩，向南方走去。

時間過的很快，不知不覺就來到了勝樂國的妙峰山，而這座高山

實在是太高了，遠遠望去，山頂深藏在雲霧中，善財心想：「要在如此的深山中尋找到夢寐以求的德雲比丘，恐怕並非容易的事。」經過了許多天，走遍了整座山的美一角，卻還是看不到他所要拜訪的人，此時善財真的有一股善知識難遇的感受，但是他還是記得文殊師利菩薩在臨行前的叮嚀：「參訪善知識不可以畏懼困難，也不可以懈怠。」一直到了第七天，才終於在臨山不遠的別峰上，見到了正在徐步經行的德雲比丘。

德雲比丘有如玉樹臨風一般，面露慈祥，令人從心中生起了歡喜恭敬的心，善財童子迫不及待的前去向德雲比丘請教，善財說：「慈悲的聖者，我已先發了阿耨三藐三菩提心，但還不知道一個行者應該如何學習菩薩行？修菩薩行？以達到圓滿的普賢行。我是接受了菩薩的指示來向您學習的，希望你能開示指導我，如何才能成就阿耨三藐三菩提呢？」德雲比丘讚歎著說：「善哉！善哉！善男子，你能發菩提心又能求學菩薩道，實在是難能可貴，





那麼我就將我所修學的經驗告訴你吧!我所修學的是念佛法門。一個念佛的行者，首先必須具備有堅定的信心，以及對真理的了解，才能不受任何境界所動，當念佛念到一心不亂的時候，就是一種三昧的境界，在這個時候我的眼根清淨，可以看見十方諸佛的種種色相、形貌、神通、遊戲以及一切眾會道場的莊嚴。諸佛菩薩的佛土，隨著眾生不同的心樂，而示現種種成正覺門，更由於對於真理的明瞭，斷除了內心一切煩惱執著的障礙，便可以在一念之間稱著自己的心念，去到十方諸佛的國土，恭敬供養一切諸佛，這一切都是因為我修學念佛法門，所證得的自在解脫力。一位初發心的行者，必須要能念佛的名字念到心口不離佛。身常恭敬佛，以佛的名號，佛的功德來堅定自己的信心，因為信是進入佛法大海的一把鑰匙，所以我堅持修學這一個法門，才達到十信滿心的果位，安住於佛法，不產生懈怠退道的障礙。

善男子，我所證得的解脫門叫【憶念一切諸佛境界智慧光明普見法門】。事實上，諸佛菩薩無邊智慧的清淨行門並不止如此，據我所知，念佛三昧的法門就有二十一種，而我所知道的只是其中

之一而已。至於其它的二十一種，我也只能舉例給你聽，就是所謂：

- 智光普照念佛門；
- 令一切眾生念佛門；
- 令安住力念佛門；
- 令安住法念佛門；
- 照耀諸方念佛門；
- 入不可見處念佛門；
- 住於諸劫念佛門；
- 住一切時念佛門；
- 住一切剎念佛門；
- 住一切世念佛門；
- 住一切境念佛門；
- 住寂滅念佛門；
- 住遠離念佛門；
- 住廣大念佛門；
- 住微細念佛門；
- 住莊嚴念佛門；
- 住能事念佛門；
- 住自在心念佛門；
- 住自業念佛門；
- 住神變念佛門；
- 住虛空念佛門；

善男子，如果你想作更深入的了解，那麼就必須再去請教其他的善知識了! ㊦



大方廣佛華嚴經卷第五十三·離世間品第三十八之一·第8問何等為戒

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。

第八問～何等為戒

經文 (P154L2)：佛子！菩薩摩訶薩有十種戒。何等為十？所謂：

- 1． 不捨菩提心戒；
- 2． 遠離二乘地戒；
- 3． 觀察利益一切眾生戒；
- 4． 令一切眾生住佛法戒；
- 5． 修一切菩薩所學戒；
- 6． 於一切法無所得戒；
- 7． 以一切善根迴向菩提戒；
- 8． 不著一切如來身戒；
- 9． 思惟一切法離取著戒；
- 10． 諸根律儀戒。

是為十。若諸菩薩安住此法，則得如來無上廣大戒波羅蜜。





釋文(V17P59L4):

「戒」者，大乘菩薩要成就「眾生」，必須自身根本止息惡行，彰顯善業以圓滿成就眾生的大願。其實，單看這三句中，已清楚闡明了三聚淨戒。在〈華嚴經·離世間品〉中，身口意三業都有提到，包括戒律。戒律屬身業，身業如何修學？經文顯示，菩薩有十種戒，其實這十種戒中不離三聚淨戒：攝善法戒、攝律儀戒及饒益眾生戒，如下表：

	經文十戒	所屬三聚戒法
1	不捨菩提心戒	攝善法
2	遠離二乘地戒	攝律儀
3	觀察利益一切眾生戒	饒益眾生
4	令一切眾生住佛法戒	饒益眾生
5	修一切菩薩所學戒	饒益眾生
6	於一切法無所得戒	饒益眾生
7	以一切善根迴向菩提戒	攝善法
8	不著一切如來身戒	攝律儀
9	思惟一切法離取著戒	攝善法
10	諸根律儀戒	攝律儀






以上經文所提的十種戒，是不離菩提心。若忘失菩提心，必招六根犯戒境，故犯戒重業，可說是破了菩薩戒境。從不捨菩提心起，由於發起了菩提心，對於聽聞一切法都加以思惟，遠離取著的心，進一步把一切所做的善業以迴小向大的心念迴向給有情，成就了遠離取著戒及迴向菩提戒。

攝律儀戒是以「嚴防」為體，嚴格防範錯誤的心念與行動，禁止一切惡事，具足莊嚴威儀。「律」是戒律，是約束、禁止的意思；「儀」是儀態，是日常生活中的舉止與形態。攝律儀就是攝持大乘佛法的精神，積極推行該做的事，嚴格禁止不該做的事。所以菩薩該以遠離二乘地為主，乃至最後可以成就諸根律儀戒。

上文屬於饒益眾生戒有四句，以不離利益眾生的心念，令眾生安住於佛法中，上文所說以菩提心修菩薩行及修菩薩所修，但令眾生不著於一切法，形成於一切法無所得戒，此為饒益眾生的核心。☸



“攝律儀就是攝持大乘佛法的精神，積極推行該做的事，嚴格禁止不該做的事。”



不一樣的聖誕新年假期

聖誕假期，是美國人一年當中最重要和熱鬧的嘉年華會，閤家團聚共享天倫的美好時光。但是，近幾年來，美國國內在遭受金融風暴重創之後，大企業紛紛裁員，中、小型公司更面臨倒閉危機，造成失業率高居不下，本季寒冬待領救濟食物人口高漲，艱難時刻，貧困家庭中的孩子們，更不可能有一個“有禮物”的平安夜了。

原本有著濃厚宗教意味的聖誕節，隨著外來不同民族、文化和宗

教信仰人口的大量移入，沖淡了聖誕節的傳統宗教形式，換得是更孕育內涵的“感恩”佳節，讓“愛心”無限，看得到，摸得到，你、我、他感覺到。

每年一進入聖誕佳節的倒數計日開始，也就是感恩節過後，我們就會看到在超級市場、藥房門口、百貨公司和人潮來往的主要道路旁，有帶著聖誕老公公小紅帽的義工，搖著熟悉的鈴噹，前面掛著一個小桶子（紅色水壺），上面有個只能放零錢的小口，讓大家可以將身上的零錢捐出來，他們要的不多，希望積沙成塔的精神很感人，不管刮風下雨，寒流冷風，他們一定都會出現，同樣寶





文：朱文英

貴的是，行人和過客，在匆忙之餘，也都會豪不吝嗇地停下腳步，匆匆打開皮包，把能有的零錢捐出來。別小看只能放零錢小口的小桶子，也會有「愛心奇跡」；今年，有位神秘聖誕老人，把五張折成小方塊的一元鈔票，每張鈔票包著一張面額2萬元的銀行本票，捐入小桶子裡，並且匿名用“聖誕老人”。

同樣地，類似此種的義舉善行正在全國各地熱情展開，一項「郵差先生聖誕老人」活動，得到千萬匿名者響應，捐贈聖誕物。貧苦家中的孩子們和父母把自己的願望寫在給聖誕老人在信上，由善心人士，扮演聖誕老公公的角色，買好禮物送，交給郵局投遞。結果，各地響應支援的禮物，蜂湧而至，盛況空前；讓許多貧困的兒童們，因愛心又有了新希望，重展笑顏，在寒冬依然感



受到暖陽。

其中，看到在北美加州灣區亦由有上百個公司、學校及組織團體，動用超過6000名自願義工，共同把6、7萬件禮物完成整理，分送給需要的孩子們，讓他們也可以開心過節。

是“愛”拉近了人與人之間的距離，也是“愛”讓這樣一個美好的假期更溫馨而有意義，中國古諺：「獨樂樂不如與眾樂樂」，只有大家都快樂，世界方能更美好。

新年快樂！





華嚴三祖賢首國師

高僧介紹

三祖賢首國師（西元643年—712年）名法藏，俗姓康，母於夢中吞下日光而懷孕。從小智慧非凡，十七歲為求佛法、入太白山，過出世的生活，以持誦華嚴經為平常功課。當時智儼和尚在雲華寺講華嚴經，因此禮和尚為師，深入研究華嚴於雲華寺。智儼和尚圓寂時曾留下遺言：“法藏用意華嚴，可紹隆大法，應使出家。”當時，適逢武則天廣植福田，度僧，將住它捨施為太原寺，當時著名諸大德道成、薄塵推薦。隨即奉敕削髮於太原寺，並為主持。上元元年，武后命京城十大德，為師授戒，賜號賢首。復詔師於太原寺講華嚴，聽者絡繹不絕。

法藏大師善巧教化，唯武后對華嚴經中義理，茫然未明，師因此取長生殿前之金獅子，說明無盡

緣起的道理，武後豁然開解。後又取銅鏡置十面八方，上下各一，相距一丈多，面面相對，中間安置一尊佛像，燃一火燭照亮之，由是交光互影，顯現重重無盡之妙理。

國師雖身為五帝門師，依然穿著簡樸；其一以禪悅為食，其二以持戒忍辱自守，弘法利生為務。玄宗先天元年，預知時至，十一月十四日，於西京大薦福寺吉祥而逝。世壽七十，臘四十三，敕諡「賢首大師」。

賢首國師著作甚多，主要有《華嚴經探玄記》、《華嚴一乘教義分齊章》、《華嚴經旨歸》、《華嚴經義海百門》、《修華嚴奧旨妄盡還源觀》、《華嚴經金獅子章》、《華嚴經傳記》、《大乘起信論義記》等。





美國華嚴蓮社慶祝佛陀成道日 領眾普佛拜願臘八粥供佛供眾

美國華嚴蓮社於元月九日慶祝佛陀成道日，當天共修內容中，有釋迦普佛及虔誦普賢行願品，而開示時間則由當家天融法師為信眾開示佛陀的故事。中午佛前午供，除一如共修會的齋菜及喜糕外，還有佛陀成道日主要食品——臘八粥。

說到臘八粥，其意義深詳，在此一述，給舊雨新知。於佛陀修道時，了悟人生的真諦，曾歷經六年苦行，終至瘦骨嶙峋。後於尼連禪河邊，接受牧羊女乳糜的供養，體力逐漸恢復，於是端坐菩

提樹下沈思，於十二月八日，夜睹明星，悟道成佛。為了紀念佛陀成道及牧羊女供養乳糜的助緣，因此各大寺院每年到十二月，都會舉辦紀念佛陀成道的大日子，各寺院均以米或果及五穀等食材煮成粥品供佛供眾。

故蓮社一如往年也舉辦如此紀念法會，在寒冬之際，為信眾送上一碗碗熱騰騰的臘八粥，祈望與會大眾得以溫飽，滋養色身外，更藉此因緣信眾能體會到佛陀當日受供之感覺，從而各人得以福德圓滿，長養法身！
☸





於日暨華 社家修年 蓮出共嘉 嚴薩佛樂 華菩普歡 國音辦食 美觀舉素



10/24/2010 美國華嚴蓮社提前慶祝觀音菩薩出家日，當天的慶祝活動，分兩個部份進行，第一個部份是在大殿進行的共修會，第二個部份是在齋堂進行的素食歡樂嘉年華（VEGGIE FOOD FAIR）。

共修會如常的於早上八時正舉行，總共有三支香：第一支香，由住持天因法師領眾觀音普佛一堂，又安排好六位發心菩薩，虔

誠地捧著蠟燭燈呈給住持法師親手燃點後獻供於佛前，儀式簡單殊勝，令人攝心。第二支香領眾虔誦普門品及大悲咒廿一遍，信眾們每人獲分贈一瓶大悲水結緣，咒水清澈怡人，如獲至寶。第三支香，是佛法開示，由住持法師為大家介紹準提菩薩與至尊聖救度母，菩薩本尊咒文，皆可受持。

而素食歡樂嘉年華（VEGGIE



FOOD FAIR) 部份，則是由當家天融法師與典座組及青年團合辦的，上午九時開始至下午二時結束，以COUPON方式作買賣交易，食物方面計有十多個攤位放滿精美可口的素點心，令人食指大動，主要有：串燒、漢堡飽、紙包豆腸、蓮花腐球、麥芽合桃……等，籌得善款全數歸於救濟基金。在會場中又有數個遊戲攤位給小朋友參與，並請來永康中醫診所陳慧芳醫師給與信眾量血壓及諮詢有關健康問題。

怡)、蔣淑珍(心貴)，當天法會如是圓滿。



當天法會結束後，到了中午用齋時間，信眾們踏進齋堂，歡喜的接過了蓮社準備好結緣壽桃、壽麵及齋飯後，大多數人又回到嘉年華會現場，繼續品嚐美食，流連忘返。



下午一時三十分大殿內舉行三皈五戒典禮，是次求受五戒者，分別是：蘇敏儀(心莊)、林絳雲(心法)、祿青蒂(心蒂)、余晨維(心



美國華嚴蓮社年終盛事滿堂 舉辦年終梁皇法會暨 表揚青年組卸任幹事 莊嚴殊勝



上慧下解大和尚主持施放

美國華嚴蓮社於國曆十二月十九日（星期日）起至二十六日（星期日）止一連八天，啟建年終法會禮拜梁皇寶懺。此次年終大法會，本社恭請住持上天下因法師為主法和尚；並禮請上慧下解大和尚主持施放三時繫念佛事一堂，拔度眾姓先亡，超登極樂。另外，我們又邀請了灣區眾位法師共同參與領眾共修。

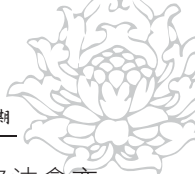
法會每天早上九時開始至下午四時多結束，又剛好是連續的假期，參與的信眾都非常踴躍。而

信眾對於禮拜梁皇寶懺有一定的偏好，況且目前美國經濟不景，信眾也希望藉此因緣懺悔業障，同時祈求世界和平，人民安樂！

每天法會分五支香進行。第三支香是佛前大供，第五支香前部份是拜懺，後半部是誦地藏經接晚課，部份上班族一族，大都把握機會趕來參與最後一支香的法會，既可禮懺，亦參與誦經，功德殊勝。

法會最後一天，上午延生普佛，





由慧解大和尚主持，普佛圓滿後更為大眾作開示，法師言簡義深的為大眾解釋超度的意義，令現場信眾獲益良多；下午二時開始三時繫念，至六時三十分圓滿，當中第三時佛事在化牌位時，和尚引領所有與會大眾一起念佛送牌位到停車場，在一片綿密的念佛聲中，化掉所有牌位；此際，天空中出現一整片的祥雲，另法會現場更顯得殊勝。法會圓滿後，大眾同心合力，將現場整理歸位，有部分信眾亦紛紛赴歸，而參與支援的法師亦於翌日回歸

所屬常住，而這次的年終法會亦圓滿結束。祈願大眾在2011年能福慧雙修，增福延壽。

另於法會的第一天，住持天因法師代表蓮社特別頒發三張感謝狀給予青年組的前任會長丁聖剛、副會長李忠霖及秘書區志揚，表揚他們開拓了青年組的基礎，青年組去年（2009）年成立，現已屆滿任期，於上兩週改選後，由新任會長繼續帶領青年組步步成長。☸



簡見法師



住持天因法師代表蓮社特別頒發感謝狀給予青年組的前任會長丁聖剛





美國華嚴蓮社 新春祈福法會 禮拜三千佛懺 信眾法喜充滿



華嚴蓮社於一月三十日起舉辦一年一度的新春祈福法會，禮拜《佛說千佛洪名寶懺》，即「三千佛懺」。恭請住持天因法師主法，每天於上八時正開始，二月五日圓滿。拜懺的連續幾天來，天色陰暗，還不時下著綿綿細雨，雖然如此，也擋不住前來拜懺的虔誠信眾，有信眾發願一定要拜圓滿三千佛懺，但因家事瑣事有時缺席或遲到，回家也要補拜；有信眾由於家庭或工作的關係，隨喜參加，祈求今年順利。無論信眾抱著甚麼樣的心境前來禮佛拜懺，總是離不開求福保平

安，故蓮社的法師都非常認真的領眾禮拜，務求達到新春期間能為信徒圓滿的祈福。

又於這幾天，住持天因法師利用午齋過堂的時間更為信眾開示三千佛的由來、禮拜三千佛的利益；勉勵與會者如懺文所述：禮拜、受持、書寫、讀誦，必得滅罪、降福乃至解脫、自在而涅槃。

又於農曆庚寅年除夕至辛卯年大年初一，住持天因法師依循往例領眾向佛菩薩辭年及拜年，並為大眾說吉祥話、發紅包，也告





訴大家互相拜年，頓時間，整個大雄寶殿洋溢著此起彼落的祝賀聲。

蓮社為了向大家祝福，準備了很多紅包袋，內有米、茶、銅板及祝福法語，住持法師為大眾解釋說：米、茶是生活必需品，祝大眾來年豐衣足食；銅板讓大家錢財充足，祝福法語令大家法喜充

滿，法師更提醒大家時時說好話、做好事、要提起正念、精進不懈。另外，住持法師為了鼓勵更多人能在新年的第一天吃素，特別安排香積組把供應午齋的時間延長，令到每位前來禮佛的信眾，都能領取一份便當回家，祈願人人能飽足色身。☺



佛前吉祥燈，燈燈相耀



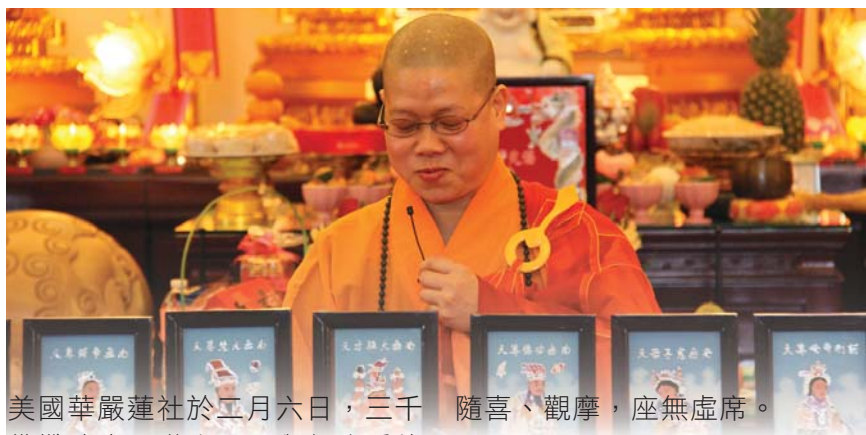
信眾虔誠禮懺



香積廚師姐忙於準備齋飯



美國華嚴蓮社 舉辦華嚴齋天法會 信眾與功德主 如法順利圓滿成就



美國華嚴蓮社於二月六日，三千佛懺法會圓滿次日，舉行隆重的華嚴供佛齋天法會，雖然只是半天的法會，但事前準備的工作比之一般法會繁瑣多了。從採購、莊飾、環境佈置、乃至法會正式開始，環顧一望，做就了很多視覺上的景像，以佛教的用語，這就是事相上的成就。

法會於八時三十分開，恭請本社住持天因法師主法，帶領與會大眾洒淨、請聖，然後進入供天部份，大雄寶殿中，外圍有十五席華嚴經的諸佛菩薩，包圍著二十四諸天神眾，每席有一位發心供養的功德主，志願成就了今年（辛卯兔年）供天的功德。其餘大殿的兩旁擺滿了椅子，給參予者

隨喜、觀摩，座無虛席。

住持天因法師利用了四十分鐘時間，為大家開示了華嚴齋天與一般齋天的不同：華嚴齋天是根據華嚴經所提及的神眾，從最靠近人間的護法神至最高無上的法身佛，不離欲界、色界及無色界、進入四加行位、十信位後，出現三賢位：十住、十行、十迴向。進而十地等五十階位菩薩，這是華嚴最重要的菩薩等眾，法師又介紹了天神及菩薩等的事蹟、願力，因由等。經過一番介紹後，令祈願者對自己所祈求的護法善神、菩薩等多一份認識與相應，看著居士們誠敬、專注的祈願，今天的齋天法會如是順利、如法、成功、圓滿，法喜充滿。☸



大殿佈置與別不同



參與供天者眾



香積廚的義工與天寧師



信眾聆聽開示



供天後在齋堂用餐



連會議室也充作臨時齋堂



美國華嚴蓮社舉辦佛學專題講座 開照比丘宣講 如何修持慈心禪



美國華嚴蓮社於1/14及1/15特別舉辦兩場佛學講座，禮請馬來西籍開照比丘宣講如何修持慈心禪。開照比丘出生於馬來西亞，24歲在檳城洪福寺出家，在泰國受比丘戒。1990 畢業於馬來西亞佛學院。1988年開始監獄弘法，二十多年的監獄弘法中，他的慈悲不知軟化了多少身陷囹圄，手腳帶著重重鐐銬的硬漢子，進而皈依佛教。

在這次為期兩天的專題講座，法師為大家簡單扼要地介紹慈心禪的修法，「慈心禪」在巴利文意指善念、慈愛、友善。它使我們更敏銳，快速地檢視出憤怒的傾向，幫助我們趨向無嗔、容忍、善念、仁愛、忍耐、友好。而慈心禪，是為四無量心之一。其餘

三種是慈悲、喜、捨（平等心）。

慈心禪是一個培育愛心的方法，法師指導大家選擇一個舒服的坐姿修習慈心，並跟隨法師以巴利文的唱誦和中文的唸誦：願我沒有敵意，願我沒有瞋恚，願我沒有痛苦，願我保持快樂！以自己為所緣散佈慈心。這樣引導大家先以慈愛對待自己，由於這股心靈力量（慈心）的散發，幫助我們減少憤怒、厭煩、煩躁及不耐，令我們溫和、友善及仁慈。法師接著又帶領大眾將慈心推及他人，進而為他人祝福，由朋友至敵人，將善心暖意惠及他人。

兩天的佛學專題講座，算起來只有短短三小時，法師以非常扼要的方式將慈心禪的重點為大家解





說！出席者飽餐甘露法味後，無不法喜充滿而歸。

法師曾表示：「有緣來聽我分享佛法，就當作是共修。沒有緣，即使都沒人也沒關係，就當自修。」法師這種弘法精神，令人景仰。

本社天因住持亦把握良機，藉此因緣，再禮請法師在16日的共修會上為大眾開示。法師遂以佛陀教導在家信徒奉行的十福業，即十個增長人天福報的積德修善的方法為大眾開示十福業。分別是一、布施，二、持戒，三、禪修，四、恭敬，五、服務，六、分享或迴向功德，七、隨喜（他人的）功德，八、聞法，九、弘法，十、正直己見。

法師引用《法句經》的偈頌：現世此處樂，死後他處樂，作諸善業者，兩處俱受樂，見自善業已，他樂他極樂。

現世此處苦，死後他處苦，作諸惡業者，兩處俱受苦，現悲“我作惡”，墮惡趣更苦。

來點出佛教以善業為本和通於三世的福報觀。同時指出一般世間以長壽，財富，健康，成就美德，乃至臨終吉祥的普通世俗觀

念不僅不能圓滿也難得究竟。

法師又開示佛教的福報觀包括了世間與出世間的快樂的深意。佛教的修習善業離不開智慧的引導，重點在於每人每一念的善心。

在短短一小時內，法師妙語如珠，精簡扼要地為大眾開示完畢後，隨即前往杉磯展開下一次的弘法活動。





玉兔迎春喜洋洋 兔躍長天爭春暖 鐘鼓齊鳴賀新歲 圍爐歡聚笑開懷



二月十三日（星期日）美國華嚴蓮社於下午三時至七時，十年來首次舉辦新春聯歡聚餐。當天下午三時十五分，由當家天融法師擊鼓，天華法師叩鐘，以鐘鼓齊鳴來迎請嘉賓及揭開活動的序幕。首先，由節目司儀法誕（孫木通居士）及心寬（李璐芬居士）介紹節目內容及歡迎蒞臨的嘉賓，當天出席者，除了常住諸位法師及常來支援參與共修之達堅法師外，還有聖荷西市市議員朱感生先生、工程師張志禹居士、建築師楊良淵居士、還有本社資深護法陳潤吾居士、青年會成員、常住義工、信徒眷屬等接近二百人歡聚一堂。

活動先由天因法師鳴鐘祈福，帶領大眾發願迴向；期後，又開放

給現場每位來賓叩鐘祈福，在各人叩鐘期間，住持法師在旁講述叩鐘的功德及如何利益眾生等佛法義理。

及後蓮社邀請朱議員、張工程師、楊建築師、陳潤吾居士等致詞。藉由張工程師、楊建築師兩位分別解說蓮社的整體建築架構，前兩期的工程已圓滿，即擴建大雄寶殿及維修成一樓，現餘



資深護法陳潤吾居士



下第三期工程，此工程是針對目前環境治安的問題，興建圍牆把兩座大樓圍繞一週並加兩扇鐵門（一作為山門，富有佛教色彩；一為消防車出入，備有安全作用），為此工程楊建築師代表蓮社向市府作第三次申請建築准許證，預定於今年秋天動工，故呼籲大眾隨喜捐款，共同成就，功德無量。

接著，住持天因法師以三十分鐘的時間，用多媒體的方式為信眾作一年度的弘法匯報；將蓮社過去一年的活動分為：弘法、佛學講座、文化教育、特別活動及團體到訪為主題，讓信眾對蓮社過去一年來各項活動，有更清晰的認知。

當家天融法師又分別介紹機動組、香積組、文書組、糾察組的義工菩薩給信眾認識。另外插花班、採畫班、養生班等，老師們也一一分別(介紹)各班特點。廿十多年來，一直護持蓮社的趙李學卿居士、及從小親近蓮社的胡心圓居士也分別致詞。住持法師及當家法師又分別致送各人紀念品一份。

五時正，文娛活動開始了；同時也是用餐的時間，火鍋餐具早已準備好，滿桌的火鍋料佐以娛興

節目。節目一個接一個，首先，是兩位女童的中國民族舞蹈表演，充分展現其肢體語言，一切盡在不言中。隨即是謝慧玲小朋友的小提琴演奏，只見她右手靈活的在琴弘上舞動，一個個音符就這麼跳躍起來。正當餘音裊裊，不絕於耳之際，兩位司儀分別以中英文給現場信眾猜燈謎，就在一片起哄聲中，一件件獎品被送了出去，一張張照片被拍了下來。中間更穿插著摸彩，掌聲、喝采聲、歡呼聲不絕於耳。另外，丁煒竣的薩克斯風演奏及丁睦軒的長笛演奏，讓人彷彿置身於音樂會中，令人沉醉不已。



謝慧玲小朋友小提琴演奏

另外，青年會這一群年青人的青春活力，感染了會場的整個





活動素描

氣氛。第二屆會長心智(MATT, 區志揚)以活潑的方式介紹青年



第二屆會長心智(區志揚)介紹青年會組織

會的組織。心程(JAMES,李忠霖)以幽默的方式分享他與蓮社的關係。而成員黃俊肇(JAKE)則介紹了青年會平常的活動,又丁若菱(JACKYLE)則綜合了以上各人所說,從而招募更多青年人的參與。席中多名青年人,紛紛舉手表示希望加入。

青年會成員更發揮團結的力量,以動作來讓大家猜成語,他們活潑的演出,散發出青年人獨有的氣息,使現場笑聲不絕。接下來, JAKE以結他伴奏,青年會全體合唱一曲「朋友」之後,現場氣氛推至極點。歡呼聲與「安哥」聲此起彼落。最後以一曲「萍聚」結束了表演。他們又以影片的方式,把過去一年來在蓮社

內外的活動與大家分享。同時整個聚餐活動亦接近尾聲。而活動就在一片笑聲中圓滿落幕。



本社最年長的義工心念(張寶珠)居士



(左一)趙李學卿居士與媳婦(中)及兒子(右一)趙立人



丁煒竣吹奏saxophone





司儀法誕(孫木通)及心寬(李璐芬)居士



民族舞蹈表演



丁睦軒演奏長笛



青年會合唱”朋友”



蓮社諸位法師與嘉賓合照



深秋冬至 施贈疫苗 預防感冒 安心迎冬

王立強醫生十多年來，每年深秋將要入冬前，都會前來為本社常住師父及義工大德施贈注射預防感冒疫苗，於今已成為一個每年必做的公益事。

十月三日下午1:30王醫師再次來到本社為大眾服務，信眾井然有

序的與醫生及兩位義工護士師姐配合，各人於注射針苗後，把疫苗的費用發心投入功德金，很是滿足，大概是一方面獲得了感冒的預防，又可以做功德，在準備寒衣前作好準備，猶如注入了一枚強心針，歡喜迎冬。☺☺



左圖：王立強醫生在準備注射疫苗

下圖：大眾排隊等候注射預防針

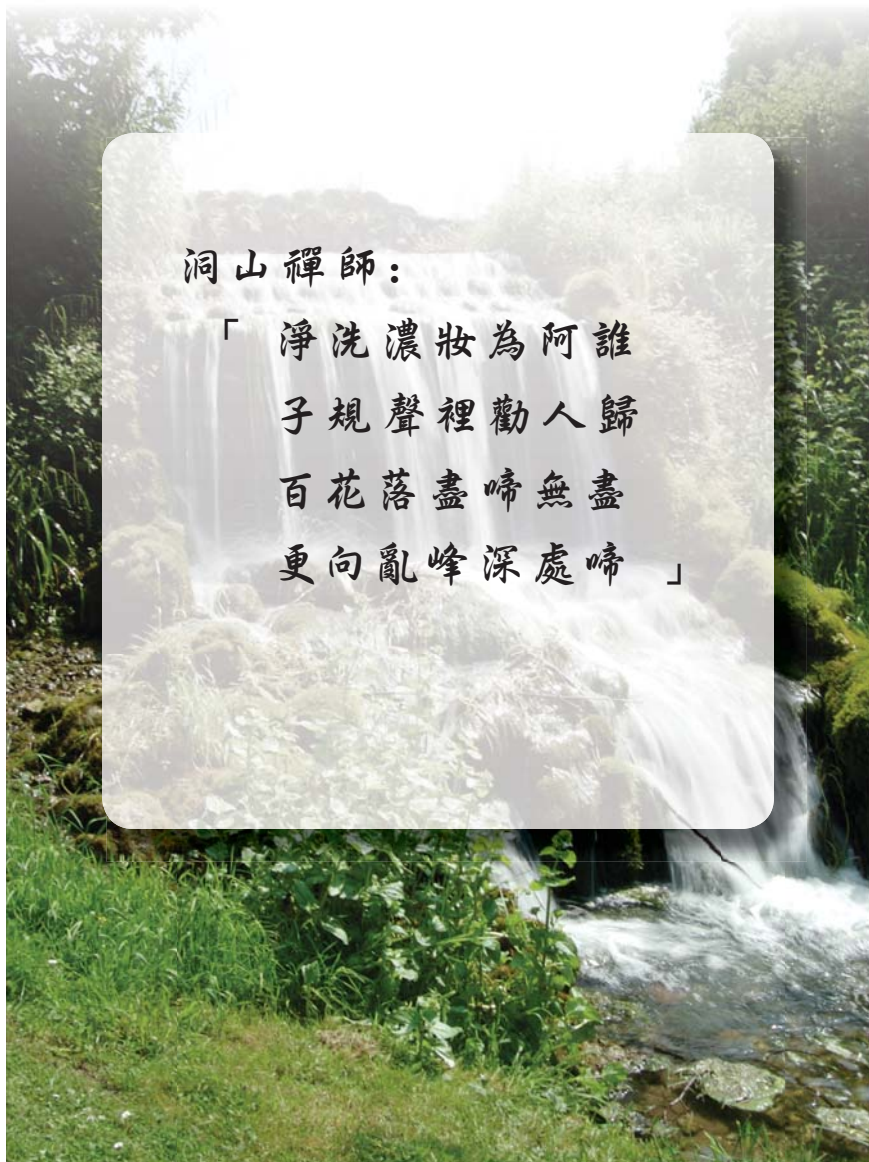




法語精選

洞山禪師：

「淨洗濃妝為阿誰
子規聲裡勸人歸
百花落盡啼無盡
更向亂峰深處啼」





沙門與鬼

從前有位沙門外出他國，到了夜晚獨自在深山中靜坐思惟，用功修行。

有一鬼化作無頭人，來到沙門前。沙門看到這鬼只有身體卻沒有頭，沉靜的說：「沒有頭，少了眼根攀緣色塵；沒有耳朵，就不會聽到是非；沒有鼻子，就不會對氣味起分別；少了嘴巴，就不會受到食物的誘惑；這樣子少了許多煩惱，真是很好！」

無頭鬼聽完這些話，忽然就消失了。

鬼又變成沒有身體，只剩下四肢

的樣子，再度飄向沙門。

沙門看了一眼，說道：「少了身體更好！不會有痛癢，沒有身體內的臟腑，就不會為病苦所折磨，這不是最痛快的一件事嗎？」

鬼聽完這番話，又再度消失。

不久鬼又化成沒有手足的樣子，忽前忽後、忽左忽右，迴旋似的朝沙門而來。

沙門便說：「沒有手足，不會去行取不義的財物，這更是修行人所希望的。」

緣

世間一切皆一個緣字。種下怎樣的因，便有怎樣的果。

一則佛教故事：

從前有個書生，和未婚妻約好在某年某月某日結婚。到那一天，

未婚妻卻嫁給了別人，書生受此打擊，一病不起，家人用盡各種辦法都無能為力，眼看奄奄一息。這時，路過一遊方僧人，得

知情況，決定點化一下他。

僧人到他床前，從懷裡摸出一面鏡子叫書生看。

書生看到茫茫大海，一名遇害的女子一絲不掛地躺在海灘上，路過一人，看一眼，搖搖頭，走了...又路過一人，將衣服脫下，給女屍蓋上，走了...；再路過一人，挖了一個坑，小心翼翼把屍





摘自：《舊雜譬喻經·卷二(五十二)》

鬼聽完這話，就消失不見了。

不一會，這鬼化作一名端莊男子，走近靜坐中的沙門，沙門知道這是剛才那位鬼所化成的。

男子走近後，躬身向沙門頂禮一拜，說：「您的意志如此的堅定不移，沒有絲毫的恐懼怖畏，實在令人佩服！不久後，您將成道證果。」說完後，這名男子就消失不見了。

省思

沙門能夠在面對任何不同的境界考驗時，都不驚慌失措，憑藉的

就是他對佛法的信心，及正確的知見，知道「凡所有相，皆是虛妄。」

在故事中的鬼魅，就如同我們的貪、瞋、痴等無明煩惱一般，會一直不停的轉化成不同的相狀，出現在我們的左右，考驗我們的道心與對佛法的信心。如果我們能有正確的知見，對佛法能夠深信，時時回歸自心，反省檢討自己，當遇到境界時就能夠站穩腳跟。不僅不為外境所動搖，並能將種種考驗化成願力，如此修行才能夠踏實，也才終有成就的一天。☸

體掩埋了.....

疑惑間，畫面切換，書生看到自己的未婚妻，洞房花燭，被她丈夫掀起蓋頭的瞬間...

書生不明所以，僧人解釋道，那具海灘上的女屍，就是你未婚妻的前世。你是第二個路過的人，曾給過她一件衣服，她今生和你相戀，只為還你一個情。

她最終要報答一生一世的人，就是最後那個把她掩埋的人，那人就是他現在的丈夫，書生大悟！馬上從床上起來病癒！

緣

這個字，是最不可思議的。





知多少？



佛旗

在佛教的一些節日與盛會期間，我們可以經常看到懸掛有一種彩色的旗子，這就是佛教的教旗，俗稱佛旗，是全世界佛教徒共通的旗幟，也是佛教的標誌之一。佛教教旗由藍、黃、紅、白、橙五彩色條組成，五色條在旗桿一側縱向延伸，在另一側橫向延伸。縱橫均為藍、黃、紅、白、橙五種顏色，象徵五乘佛法、五族共和，進而達到各民族平等，世界和諧。旗的橫向表示全世界都能和睦相處，縱向代表世界和平，綿澤永遠，亦即橫遍十方、豎窮三際。

五色旗總共六條，前五條是單色，一條一個顏色，代表佈施、持戒、忍辱、精進、禪定；後一條是雜色，五種顏色都有，代表般若。

第一條紋藍色，象徵佛陀頂

上紺碧之螺髻，盤結堅定，示「禪定」。同時有代表慈悲與平和的含義。

第二條紋黃色，象徵佛陀紫金光聚之妙色身，圓滿堅固不壞，如「金剛」。同時有代表中道，離於空、有的意義。

第三條紋赤色，象徵佛陀對眾生的哀憫，如熱血流注，常行教化，法雨普施，永無止息的大「精進」。同時有代表成就福慧，莊嚴吉祥的含義。

第四條紋白色，象徵佛陀作獅子吼，金口御齒之色，清淨潔白，能噬斷一切惡業諸煩惱，示「清淨」。同時有代表清淨解脫，法爾如是的含義。

第五條紋橙黃色，象徵佛陀聖體所披袈裟的顏色。袈裟者又



名「忍辱鎧」，能拒欲誘，能御惱害，示學佛陀之「忍辱」。同時有代表佛法的本質，是從智慧莊嚴而成的含義。

關於佛教旗幟的顏色製定，一種說法是根據佛陀成道時，聖體放出六種色光，來製成佛旗。另一種說法指此五色為佛陀渡化天、人、畜生、餓鬼和地獄五道時所放射的光芒。

佛旗是一位美國新聞記者亨利·斯太爾·奧爾科特在1880年設計的。1885年佛教旗在斯里蘭卡作為信仰與和平的象徵第一次正式使用。1951年世界佛教友誼會在斯里蘭卡成立，將五色旗定為會旗，之後逐漸為全世界佛教信眾所認可，五色旗遂成為佛教世界共同標誌。



美國華嚴蓮社青年會



美國華嚴蓮社青年會，目的是以提倡佛教、以慈善救濟、文化教育及社會福利服務為主，成立於2009年8月；目前正積極招募會員，我們的主要對象除了青少年之外，也希望有不同年齡及階層的人仕來參與。假如您有興趣及願意為大眾服務!

歡迎您與我們聯絡:

ABLS YOUTH GROUP
abls.youth@gmail.com

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



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)



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!

祈願:

道場正法久住 佛日增輝

僧眾和樂自在 大轉法輪

信眾正心正念 護寺護僧

人人有求皆遂 菩提增明

處處萬眾一心 眾緣和合





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: 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
 觀音菩薩成道日 2011年7月17日 下午1:30
 觀音菩薩出家紀念日 2011年10月9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

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(心智)志揚居士、吳艾漣(GOH AI WAI)居士，胡心圓居士、江常生居士。

編輯部謹啟





第十期 助印功德芳名

\$500 成公長老

\$300 天因法師

\$200 林心真(楓玉) K Q LUC (陸啟光)

天寧法師 陳翠娥 王春蓮

YOLI KO YUAN JULIE CHIEN LU MEI-CHIEN

HANNIBAL /ZABRIAN CHANG 陳正道及黃慧文

\$100 林楓玉 施宗憲 SIMON POON

馮文興祈求身體健康業障消除 GORDON & LILIAN KAUNG

彭銘金祈求一切疾病消除,合家合安

蘇文隆迴向故蘇鴻炎及故蘇林雪霞往生淨土

\$80 吳愛鳳

\$60 德寶樹櫃建材公司 陳美萍

鄧心寧(玉寧) CONNIE CHAN

\$50 郭梁少鳴迴向譚紹齡早生極樂

蘇文隆迴向故蘇文清往生淨土

伍張葆鍾祈求伍偉能學業精進

\$40 陳秀清 滕灼華合家 HSUNA-LING WU

柯紹荳

\$30 TOMMY

林駿 林修如 林修吉 李錦雲

\$20 ANNA WENG 陳艷

EMILY FANG 祈願家裏寵物TOTO, BELLA,熊熊...等, 來生脫離畜生道





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！

助印者姓名: _____

地址: _____

城市: _____ 州: _____ 郵遞區號: _____

連絡電話: _____

電郵地址: _____

金額: \$ _____

請將此表連同支票寄回

支票抬頭: ABL S

AVATAMSAKA BUDDHIST LOTUS SOCIETY

50 SOUTH MAIN ST.

MILPITAS, CA 95035

諸供養中，法供養最

捐款收據可申請稅務減免

THANK YOU
♥
謝謝您的支持



The *Avatamsa*

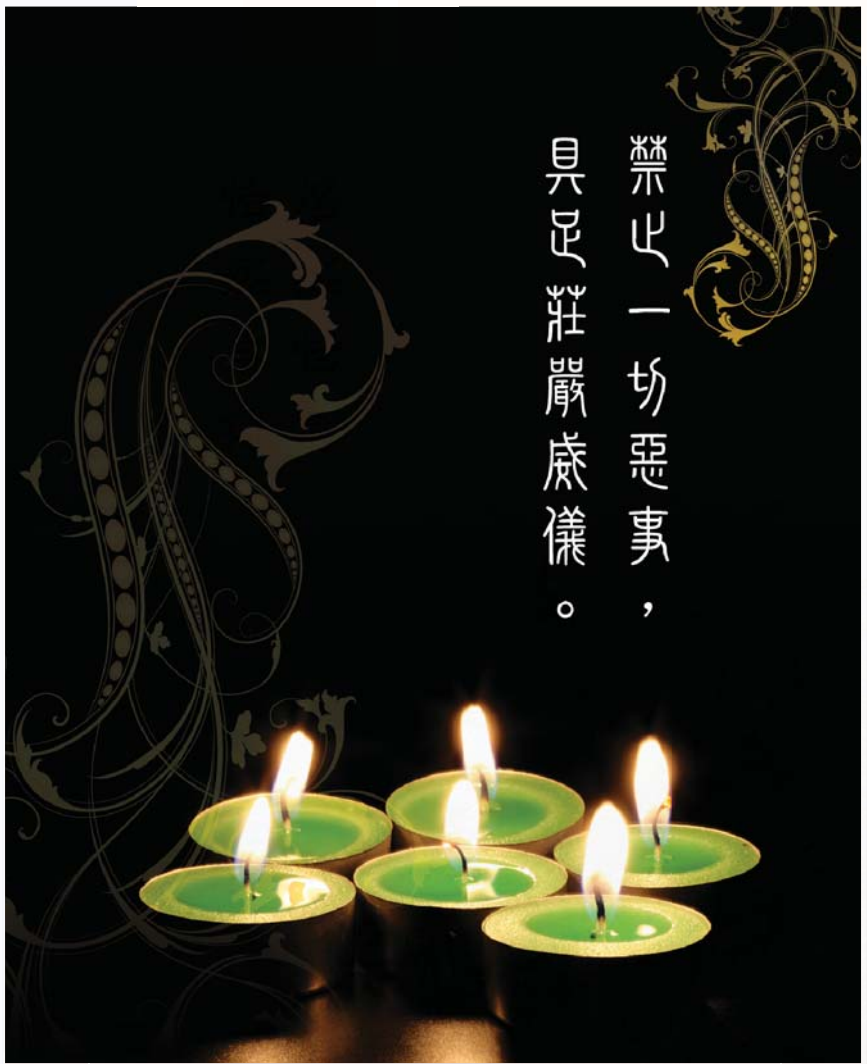
Volume 10

04. 2011

Free Distribution



禁止一切惡事，
具足莊嚴威儀。



50 South Main St. Milpitas, CA 95035 | T: 408.942.0874 | F: 408.942.0639



GOLDEN VERSES

The First Awakening of Eight Great Awakenings Sutra

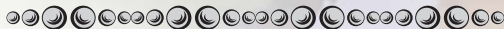
*The world is impermanent, the land
is fragile.*

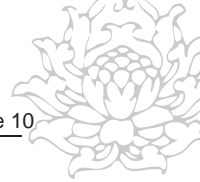
*The all four elements are in suffering and
emptiness.*

*The five aggregates are not the true self.
Life, death, transformation and change are
all unreal, illusory phenomena beyond our
control,*

*Our hearts are the origin of all evil, and our
bodies are the reservoir of all sins.*

*If we can observe all this, we will gradually
become free from life and death.*





The Avatamsa's Pick

LINKAGE BETWEEN OUR PRESENT AND PAST LIVES

Translated by: Goh Ai Wai

The world is interconnected in intricate karmic links. Whatever seed you plant, reap whatever fruit you may. This is a Buddhist story: Once, there was a scholar. He and his fiancée decided to get married, on a certain day and date. When the day arrived, he found out that his supposedly 'unmarried' wife was already married to someone else. The scholar was badly hit by this blow. He fell seriously ill. His family tried every way to help him but to no avail. They felt powerless, seeing him dying but unable to do anything to stop it. At this time, there came a wondering monk. When he knew about this situation, he decided to heal him.

The monk came to his bedside. He pulled a mirror out from his robes gently and asked the scholar to look into it. The scholar saw an ocean. A woman was killed on the beach, naked. There come a layman passing by, he looked at it, shook his head and left. Then came another. Seeing the dead woman, he took his clothes off and covered the woman's body, and left. And then came a third person, he dug a hole and carefully buried her body. At this moment of confusion and doubt,

the screen suddenly changed scenes. The scholar saw their wedding night and the moment where his fiancée ran off. The scholar didn't understand what happened. The monk explained, "The woman who was killed on the beach, was your fiancée in her past life. You are the passing second person who gave her a piece of clothing. The reason she fell in love with you this life, is just to return the brief kindness you showed her in her previous life. She will eventually have to use her entire life to repay the last person who buried her. That man is her current husband. Understanding this, the scholar immediately recovered from his bed!

Life is subject to vicissitudes of parting and reunions, there is a time for union and there will come a time for us to part. Those with affinity will grow old together. For those without, they will just be passerbys. There are a lot of things that are neither right or wrong. As long as you have tried before, just use an open heart to view things. Look a little farther and try a little harder, you will find out that vicissitudes of life are the fundamentals of life itself.





Story with Inspiration

THE PARADOX OF OUR TIME

From : Internet

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more convenience, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but lack well being.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too little, and hate unnecessarily. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We write more, but learn less; we plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals; we have more food, but less appeasement; we build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication; we've focused more on quantity, but less on quality.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more variety of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of double incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet to kill.

The truth is horrifying... it is time to wake up and save our world which is slowly heading to its own destruction, guided steadily and surely by the very own hands of human race...





Buddhism to Know

THE BUDDHIST FLAG

The Buddhist flag is a modern creation; jointly designed by Mr. J.R. de Silva and Colonel Henry S. Olcott to mark the revival of Buddhism in Ceylon in 1880. It was accepted as the International Buddhist Flag by the 1952 World Buddhist Congress.

Colonel Olcott designed the flag using six colors which he believed formed the aura around the head of the Buddha after His Enlightenment.

The flag was invented to symbolize the special features of Buddhism. Its six colors were taken from the rays which radiated from the Holy Body of the Buddha immediately after he attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya in India.

The six colors are:

1. Blue: signifying the concept of loving kindness and peacefulness in Buddhism.
2. Yellow: signifying the Middle Path, that is, the complete absence of form and emptiness. A mind free from greed, anger and ignorance.
3. Red: signifying achievement, wisdom, virtue, fortune and dignity.

4. White: signifying purity, emancipation, and timelessness, meaning the Dharma will always exist and continue to, regardless of time or space.
5. Orange: The essence of Buddhism which is full of wisdom, strength and dignity.
6. The combination of these five colors symbolizes that it is the one and only Truth.

The horizontal bars signify peace and harmony between all races throughout the world while the vertical bars represent eternal peace within the world.

In simple terms, the Buddhist Flag implies that there is no discrimination of races, nationality, areas or skin color; that every living being possess the Buddha Nature and have the potential to become a Buddha.



see cover for the color sample





VISIT TO MILPITAS CARE CENTER --11.21.2010

By : Jonathon Chiang

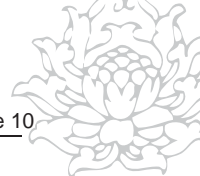
On November 21st, the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society Youth Group made a visit to the Milpitas Care Center. Our group members prepared a few musical performances for the residents of the Care Center. Youth group member, Jessica Ju, performed beautifully on the piano for the residents in the common area. In addition to Jessica's performance, Kevin Hsu put on a set of entertaining dance performance which was complimented by his warm personality. He charmed not only the residents but the staff as well. All the residents enjoyed both Jessica's and Kevin's performances. The afternoon ended with the entire ABLS Youth Group performing a few Christmas carols and a rendition of "Reason Behind Your Birth."

During the visit, the Youth Group also took the opportunity to reach out to the residents throughout the Care Center. While the performance was going on, other members of the group went to the

individual rooms to visit the residents who were unable to watch the performances at the common room. The youth group members brought holiday greetings and cheers to the Care Center with their kind wishes and gifts of warm winter clothing. The residents were happy, not only to receive holiday gifts, but also to receive visits of the youth group members who brought with them cheerful and friendly faces.

The entire event went extremely well. It could be clearly seen that the residents of Milpitas Care Center enjoyed and appreciated the visit and gifts from the ABLS Youth Group. So much so that the staff of the center invited the Youth Group to return for future visits, not only at Milpitas Care Center, but also at their other sites in San Jose as well. The Youth Group looks forward to getting involved with similar outreach events in the future.





ABLS recently formed a youth organization, "Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society (ABLS) Youth Group", a subsidiary of Avatasaka Buddhist Lotus Society. The purpose of the ABL'S Youth Group is to support ABL'S 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.

ABLS Youth Group Committee
abls.youth@gmail.com

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





MEMORABLE EVENT AT GUAN YIN CELEBRATION

By: Adam Wong

My experience in helping out at the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society (ABLS) was something totally new to me. It was my first time volunteering to help there. My mom goes to the temple regularly, so she brought me along to meet some people. The people at ABLS were all very kind to me, always helping me to get around and providing me opportunities to help out. I was quite worried that I would frustrate them, but not only were they not frustrated at all; in fact, they were very nice to me.

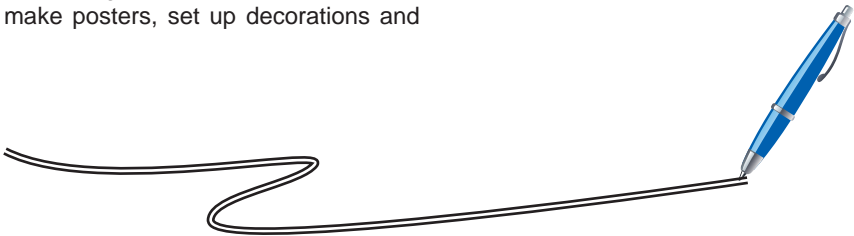
I was nervous for many reasons, the main reason being I could not speak Chinese at all, so there seem to be a language barrier. Secondly, I did not know what I needed to do. I was nervous when I approached other people. Luckily everyone there spoke English, so I was able to get some directions on how to help.

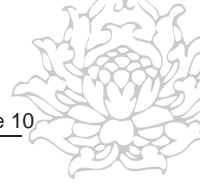
On the day before the event, I helped to prepare food. I was able to see a different variety of food that I have never seen before. I helped to stuff tofu into tin foil, which would be deep fried. I looked around in awe at all the food being prepared. I watched people make posters, set up decorations and

making food in the kitchen. Everyone seemed so happy and everything was simply marvelous. I was introduced to a game where the player had to pick up marbles with chopsticks, trust me, it is easier said than done.

On the day of the event itself, I helped to pack food into plastic boxes to be served to the people. As the people began to come in I got a bit nervous again, not knowing if they would speak Chinese to me or not. Thankfully they all spoke English too and I was not as nervous as I had been. People would pass by me and look at what food was at my table.

When lunch was over, I helped to clean up. I counted the tickets and also gathered the remaining food. Serving at the temple was really an interesting experience. I enjoyed working there, knowing that I had been a great help. This experience gives me the confidence that I am able to overcome my nervousness by gathering my courage to talk to others.





A SPECIAL HOLIDAY UNLIKE ANY OTHERS

By: Wen Yin Zhu | Translate by: Ling Ling Kulla

Christmas is a special and important event for the American people. It is a time for family and friends to get together and share beautiful memories. However, due to the recent economic downturn, many companies, whether big or small, have been suffering financially. Unemployment rate remained high. This winter season, needs for charitable food donations have increased. For some very unfortunate poor families, their children may pass their Christmas without receiving any gifts at all.

The rich religious meaning of the Christmas holiday has been lessened by the presence of many different cultures, nationalities and other religious beliefs. Along with the rich religious atmosphere that Christmas brings, we see and feel a deep sense of "gratitude"; and unconditional "love" from all of us.

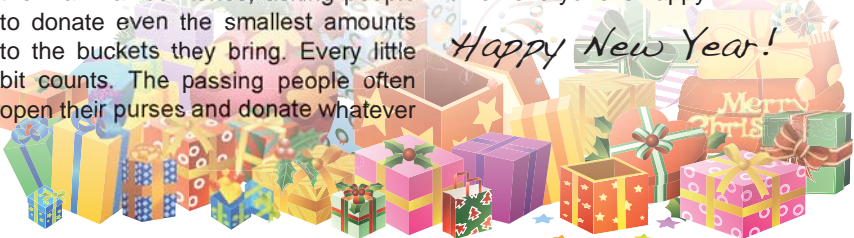
Each year, after the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Christmas countdown begins. Supermarkets, drug stores, and department stores are filled with crowds. The streets outside are also packed with people. Volunteering Santas, dressed in their Christmas suits, fight the rain, snow and cold, shaking their familiar bell tones, asking people to donate even the smallest amounts to the buckets they bring. Every little bit counts. The passing people often open their purses and donate whatever

small change that remained in their wallet. Miracles sometimes do happen to this simple money bucket. During the Christmas 2010 donation drive, a mysterious person named "Santa Claus", wrapped 5 one dollar bills into squares, and in the little square bills, each contained a \$20,000 bank cheque.

Similar donation drives are happening around the nation to bring cheers to the less fortunate. A "Post Master Santa Claus" movement was started and over 10 thousand people responded with Christmas presents. Children from unfortunate families and their parents wrote down their wishes in their letters to Santa Claus. Many Santa Claus appeared and sent gifts to the post offices. Gifts poured in from every corner of the country, giving the underprivileged children new hope, sending warm winter sunshine from these anonymous, generous "Santa Claus" all over the country.

Love brought warmth and meaning to people this holiday, bringing them closer together at the same time. "Enjoying life alone is never as good as sharing the joy", the world is a better place when everyone is happy.

Happy New Year!





THE COLORS OF FRIENDS

Friends come in many colors.

“Green color Friend”-- One who sees the positive and puts hope in Everything

“Blue color Friend” -- Color of the sea and the sky... Friend who brings Peace and serenity

“Yellow color Friend” -- Color of the Sun... Friend who makes us laugh, and shows us a star when we are sad.

“Red color Friend” -- One who reminds us of the rules in life, but encourages us to change, with warm loving words

“Orange color Friend” -- Enhances our spirit with new energy ,with loving vitamins to help us grow.

“Grey Color Friend” -- One who teaches us silence to reflect and interiorize

helping to know ourselves and others better.

“Purple color Friend” -- Color of the noble ones, will help us learn true authority and wisdom of the heart.

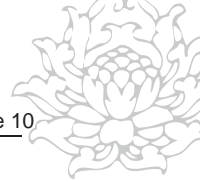
“Brown color Friend” -- Might help us to step out of false illusions, and come down to Earth, to the reality of a daily simple true living.

“ White color Friend” -- One who will help us to discover the hidden wisdom within, things to be learnt from our experiences.

If we gather all our friends in a big meeting, we will discover a rainbow of love.

Thank you for being such colorful friends!





Life is like a cup of tea, it is not possible to suffer for an entire lifetime, however, we will be tested under hardships for certain periods of our life.

When we move away and separate from others, under pressing circumstances, most probably it is for the sake of our future.

Friends who are able to see through you and know your intentions, but still like you.

If I know a little bit more logic and reasoning than others, it is because I have

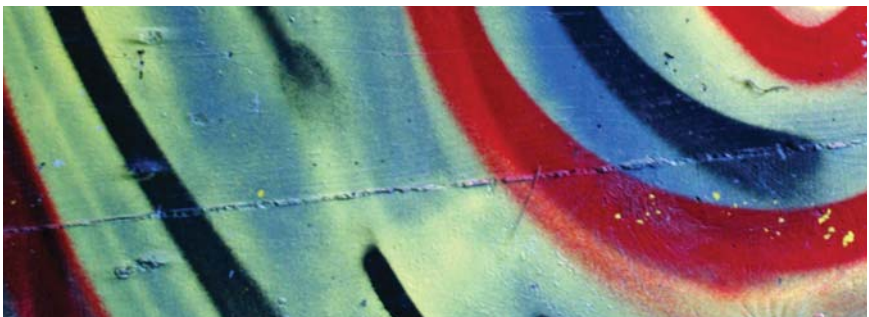
made more mistakes than other have.

The earth is round, a person will not remain in an unfortunate position forever.

There are two tragedies in life, one is not obtaining something we want, another is getting something one does not want.

Time is like a net, wherever you spread it, that will be the place of your harvest

Being matured is not growing old in the heart, but fighting back tears in the eyes while smiling at the same time





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 : March 13, 2011	1:30PM
May 8, 2011	1:30 PM
July 17, 2011	1:30 PM
September 10, 2011	1:30 PM

Light Offering to Avalokitesvara (Guan Yin) Bodhisattva

Every year, on 3 auspicious occasions, we conduct Prayers and Light Offering to Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva (also known as Guan Yin). The schedules for Year 2011 are as follows:

1. March 20, 2011

Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday.

2. July 31, 2011

Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment day

3. October 9, 2011

Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Renunciation

During the Light Offering services to Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, we will recite sutras and the Great Compassionate Mantra (Da Bei Zhou) for 21 times. Following that, we will pray to Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva to bless the Great Compassionate Water.

We cordially invite devotees to join the Light Offering services and share the merits on these celebration days. Please contact our office to register for Light Offering services.





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

Please go to [www.facebook.com/pages search for Huayen USA](https://www.facebook.com/pages/search/?query=Huayen+USA)

Merit Transfer:

May the sanctuary of Dharma be eternal; as the radiance of

Buddha emanates continuously

May all sanghas be contented, filled with peace and joy; as the Wheel of Dharma turns perpetually

May all Buddhists full of sacred hearts and pure minds; be there to fortify the temple and defend the sanghas community

May every good wish be granted; as the way of Bodhi becomes brighter and clearer

May all sentient being be in unity at of heart; as the integrity of kinship blooms eternally

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)"





CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1) Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday

March 20, 2011 Time : 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

2) Dharma Service of Ching Ming Festival for Repentance Sutra of the Lueng's Emperor.

April 3, 2011 Time : 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

3) Bathing the Buddha Celebration (Prince of Siddhartha) Celebration

May 8, 2011 Time : 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

4) Commemoration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva (Guan-Yin) Renunciation

July 17, 2011 Time : 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

5) Dharma Service for Ullambana Festival and Sangha Day Chanting The Avatamsaka Sutra

July 31 – August 14, 2011 Time : 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

6) Dinner Party of Mid-Autumn Festival

September 10, 2011 Time : 6:30PM – 9:00 PM

7) Celebration of Guan Shih Yin (Akalokiteshavara) Bodhisattva Enlightenmen

October 9, 2011 1 Time : 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

8) Special Chanting on December

The Past Vows of Ksitigarbha (Earth Store) Bodhisattva Sutra

December 1 – 24, 2011 Time : 3:00 PM – 5:45 PM

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

December 25 ,2011- Jan 1, 2012 Time : 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





♥ TO SUPPORT
The Avatamsa

Please fill in the following information to make monetary donation to support the ABLs Newsletter.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Please mail this donation form along with a check payable to : ABLs
We will mail your receipt back to the address you provided above.
All donations are tax deductible.

Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society
50 South Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

The offering of the Dharma excel all other offerings

