



Buddha's Light

New York

Edition #1

佛光世紀



365 Days for Travelers

Wisdom from Chinese Literary and Buddhist Classics



人間佛教讀本

A Humanistic Buddhism Reader

365 Days for Travelers

Wisdom from Chinese Literary and Buddhist Classics



獻給旅行者 365 日

中華文化佛教寶典

中英文版
Chinese-English Edition

監製大師 慧海法師
Executive Editor
Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Members' Election Results

Top Voted News
Stories of 2021

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Buddha's Light New York Bimonthly Magazine!

Every two months, we'll be giving you a glimpse into what *Buddha's Light International Association* is all about!

But for now, here's a quick introduction — *Buddha's Light International Association*, or BLIA, is an organization, consisting of both monastics and laypeople, advocating Humanistic Buddhism — which is committed to *equality, respect for others, and social progress.*

The organization is associated with the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Order, the largest Buddhist organization in Taiwan, with over 300 branches worldwide. Flushing, Queens is home to the New York branch of Fo Guang Shan Temples.



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple

BLIA in the Community



Donating masks to former Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams



Winter coat drive



Holding a food drive for City Harvest



Donating vegetables to those in need

Executive Board

President: Cindy Lin

Vice Presidents: Jenny Chen
Kenneth Jin

Publisher: Buddha's Light International Association

Editors: Angelina Sun, Emily Wang, Helen Leong

Design: Angelina Sun

Printer: AMAX Printing, Inc.



Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Venerable Master Hsing Yun, Founder of BLIA, was born in Jiangsu, China in 1927, and entered a monastery at age 12. He is a Chinese Buddhist monk, philanthropist, author, and founder of the Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Order, which is headquartered in Taiwan and has branches throughout Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Americas.

Ordained at the age of 12, Venerable Master Hsing Yun has spent over 80 years promoting “Humanistic Buddhism”—Buddhism that meets the needs of people and is integrated into all aspects of daily life.

Early on in his monastic career, he was involved in promoting Buddhism through the written word. He served as an editor and contributor for many Buddhist magazines and periodicals before starting his own Buddhist magazine and newspaper.

Today, Master Hsing Yun continues to travel around the world teaching Dharma and producing his infamous one-stroke calligraphy paintings. He reminds us that to transform our world, we must be actively engaged in it. Wherever he goes, he encourages people to unite both the local and global community into a world of complete equality, joyfulness, and perfect peace.



Did You Know?

In China, calligraphy has been regarded as a kind of spiritual celebration. Because of illness, shaking hands, and poor eyesight, Master Hsing Yun is not able to execute the characters in separate strokes. He says, “As I am unable to see, I can only estimate the spacing between characters. If I am unable to finish in one stroke, then I will not know where to start my second stroke. I must finish it in one stroke in order to reach my goal.” Thus, it is called “**One-Stroke Calligraphy.**”

Top Highlights of 2021

Community Voting Results Revealed!

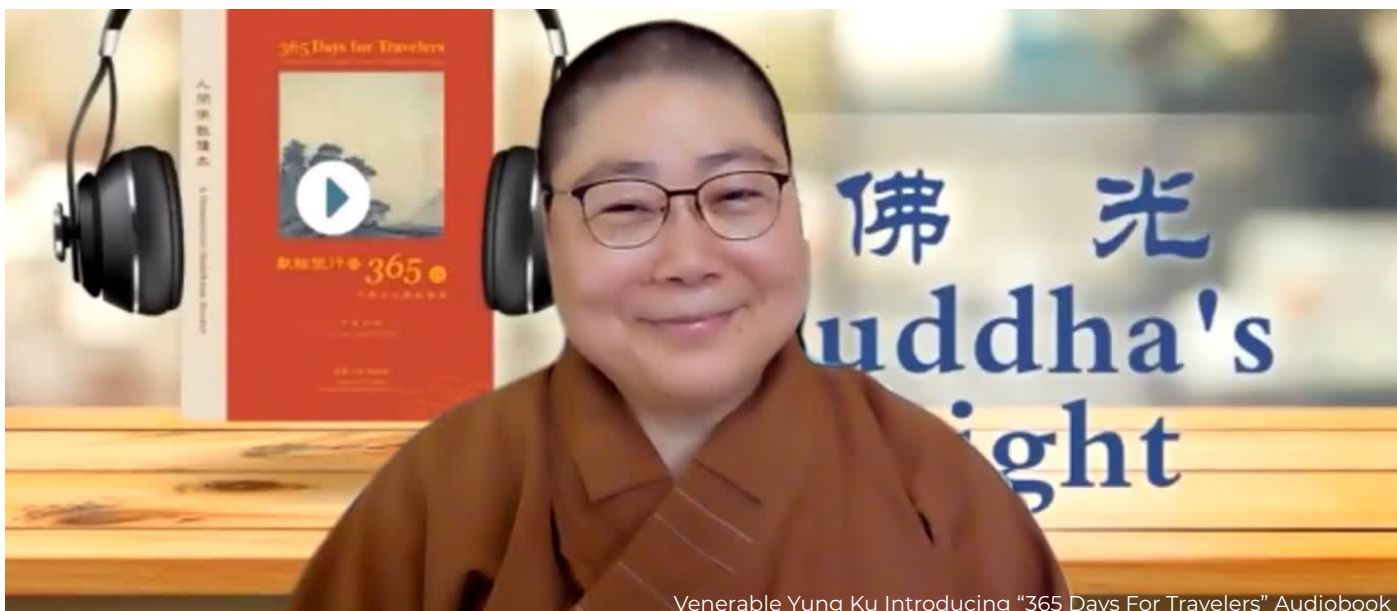
At the end of 2021, Venerable Yung Ku, abbess of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, called on the community to vote for their favorite events of the year. In previous years, only the editors were able to choose the year-end highlights. According to the results, the top eight highlights had distinct rankings, but three events tied for ninth place.

Keep reading for the top highlights voted by the Fo Guang Shan New York Community!



1: Our World Premiere of “365 Days for Travelers”

On May 16, 2021, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple premiered Venerable Master Hsing Yun’s “365 Days for Travelers” audiobook on YouTube. The special edition of this audiobook has both Chinese and English passages to engage and teach the principles of Humanistic Buddhism and Chinese culture with a wider audience. The production team started off with only ten volunteers but has now expanded to over 40 volunteers. To present diverse performances, there are over 30 readers who recite daily excerpts in Chinese and English. The goal of the audiobook is to give confidence, joy, hope, and support to all walks of life. Together, we can grow with wisdom, safety, and good health throughout the pandemic era.

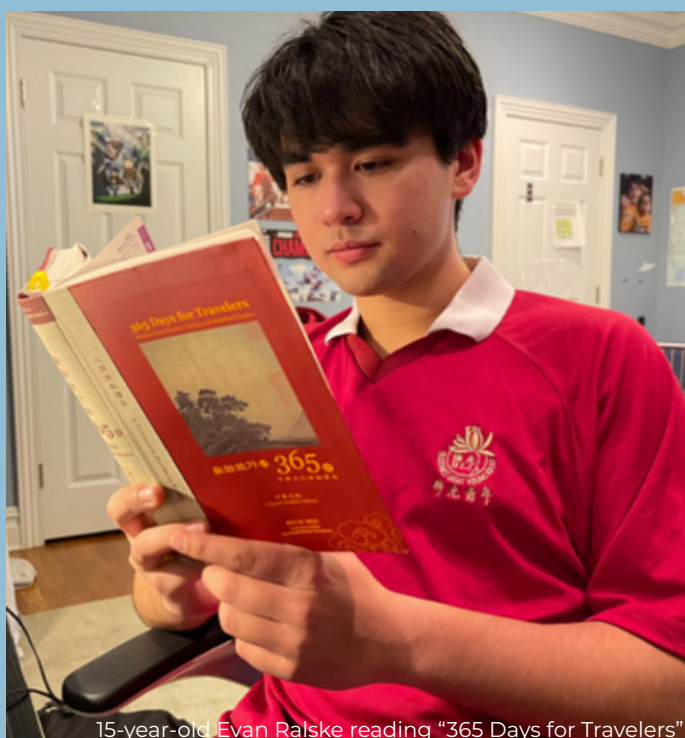


Venerable Yung Ku Introducing "365 Days For Travelers" Audiobook

New Buddhist Audiobook Cultivates Interest in New Generation

Evan Ralske, a 15-year-old high school senior, shared a reading from "365 Days for Travelers" in his Interfaith History class. His teacher, Mr. Cooper, called his mother, Jenny, after class to tell her he has been teaching at New Jersey's Tenafly Public High School for 12 years and this was the first time he heard a 15-year-old student explain Buddhist Zen-related texts in class. He was both surprised and delighted.

In May 2021, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple premiered the "365 Days for Travelers" audiobook on YouTube. Evan has listened and engaged with the daily readings since August 2021. At the start, he did not quite understand the meaning of each reading. But after a few months of participation, he gradually began to understand and learn more about Humanistic Buddhism and Chinese culture. Evan is the oldest son of Jenny Chen, Vice President of the New York Association of BLIA.



15-year-old Evan Ralske reading "365 Days for Travelers"

Jenny said that she simply asked Evan and his father, Erik Ralske, to support the temple's recording of "365 Days for Travelers" into an audiobook and participate in the English recording. She did not expect Evan to become so passionate about understanding Dharma practice, humanity, religion, and mindfulness. Jenny vowed to make more use of this book in the future as a resource for youth groups to enrich the elements of Buddhist learning for the next generation.

2: Learn to Make Laba Porridge

Our YouTube cooking series “Food and Dharma in the Humanistic Kitchen” recorded an exclusive episode on how to make traditional Laba Porridge for all to learn. Laba Porridge, also called Eight Treasure Congee, is a Chinese ceremonial dish eaten on the day of the Laba Festival, or the eighth day of the twelfth month in the Chinese calendar. The Laba Festival celebrates the enlightenment day of the Buddha.

In previous years, the temple distributed Laba porridge to the community. However, due to the pandemic, the festival was moved online in 2021. Venerable Yong Kang, of Florida’s Guang Ming Temple, was invited to provide cooking tips on traditional recipes. On January 9, 2021, the show premiered on YouTube and received an overwhelming 2,000 views in one week.



Laba Porridge

Ingredients for Laba Porridge

3: Just a Few Clicks Away, Virtual Support is Available For All

Abbess of Fo Guang Shan’s New York Temple, Venerable Yung Ku, met with “New York Chinese Radio Network” Director Cheng Hui for a video interview to discuss a new Dharma-promoting program: “Buddha Light in New York.” This program features Humanistic Buddhism and Dharma-related topics, including how to face new challenges, apply dharma in everyday life, and overcome barriers. The program premiered on January 4th and broadcasts every Monday at 10:00am.

All are welcome to check out our YouTube channel to learn more and enjoy the weekly interviews. The program has reached almost 300,000 listeners from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.



4: Traditional Vegetarian New Year's Dishes Encourage Sustainability In The Coming Year



Vegetarian "Lion's Head"

Venerable You Wang launched a special cooking series on preparing vegetarian versions of traditional New Year's dishes and desserts. Talented cooks from the Fo Guang Shan community were invited to teach online tutorials on symbolic New Year foods using fresh and delicious vegetarian-friendly ingredients. The first episode explains how to make vegetarian "Lion's Head" or Chinese meatballs. This new series is part of the "Food and Dharma in the Humanistic Kitchen" YouTube channel.



Vegetarian Taro "Fish"



Vegetarian "Four Seasons of Peace"

5: BLIA's Information Technology Group Continues to Host Successful Online Events

As virtual events become increasingly popular, the New York IT Group has overcome many difficult obstacles to host successful online events. The "2021 BLIA World Headquarters Virtual General Conference" was held virtually using cloud technology to allow all participants to join. The NY IT Group also played key roles in many events, such as the 2020 World Dharma Exam and BLIA 2021 North America Online Fellowship Meeting. Members Peter Qian, Peter Xu, Fanny Liu, and Venerable You Wang worked behind the scenes to plan and prepare for conferences.



國際佛光會2022年世界理事會
 北美見 See you at 2022 BLIA committee Meeting in North America

2021 BLIA Committee Meeting

6: FGSNA.org Wishes You A Happy Chinese New Year!

Fo Guang Shan Temples celebrated the 2021 Spring Festival with the launch of a new website, www.fgsna.org. The website allowed the community to safely stay home and virtually worship and offer greetings to the Buddha. Highlights of the website included tours of various North American Fo Guang Shan temples and a journey around Fo Guang Mountain. Participants were able to learn to be like heavenly beings in the Paradise of Ultimate Bliss - burning New Year's incense, lighting Lotus lamps to worship the Buddha, and ringing bells to make wishes.



佛光山紐約道場

I. B. P. S NEW YORK

Fo Guang Shan New York New Year's Website Homepage



Visit fgsna.org to virtually burn incense, light lamps, and ring bells



Venerable You Wang



Venerable Miao Chu



Venerable Chueh Rang



Venerable You Ren

NY Temple Venerables Reading "Good Mood in the World"

7: Our Radio Program Has Relunched on YouTube!

The radio program "Good Mood in the World" was relunched on YouTube in January 2021 and continues to be broadcasted on the Temple's YouTube Channel every Saturday. One important goal of the program is to provide listeners with Dharma wisdom as rich as "Four Seasons" and enable them to cultivate their hearts and spread the seeds of Humanistic Buddhism in the world.

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple Venerables have all taken turns to read and record Venerable Master Hsing Yun's "Life's Ten Thousand Affairs" book series. The program started as a radio broadcast in the Greater New York area for over ten years.

Be sure to check it out!

8: Venerable You Wang: The First Venerable Graduate of NYPD's Citizens Police Academy

Venerable You Wang attended and graduated from the 6-week Citizens Police Academy training course held by the New York City Police Department from September 13th to October 21st. She is the first Venerable to complete this training course. Due to the pandemic, the course was suspended in 2020 for 1½ years. September 2021 was the first class to resume after the pandemic. The original 10-week physical course was adjusted to a 6-week online course with a parallel supplementary training course. On October 28th, the graduation ceremony was held at 1 Police Plaza, where the New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea personally presented the graduation certificates.



Former NYC Police Commissioner Dermot Shea

9: Offering Ceremony for Buddhas and Celestial Guardians Held Virtually For The First Time



Offerings to the Buddha

2021 was the first time Venerables and Disciples from ten Fo Guang Shan Temples prepared flowers and incense to virtually welcome the Buddha and Celestial Guardians to enjoy the offerings. Participants gathered online to perform the Dharma service, which took place on February 20, 2021 and lasted for 2 consecutive days. The ceremony was broadcasted live on YouTube.

At the same time, a storm disaster affected the southern region of the United States. Fo Guang Shan Temples in Texas were not only focused on worshipping, but also on cleaning up and rebuilding after power outages and flooding. The ceremony also provided an opportunity to fundraise for the Dallas Lecture Hall, Chung Mei Temple (Houston, Texas), and Xiang Yun Temple (Austin, Texas).



9: Fo Guang Shan Held the First Virtual Triple Gem Refuge Ceremony

Over 100 Temples Gathered Online to Participate

On March 31, for the first time in Fo Guang Shan history, over 100 temples gathered online to participate in the Triple Gem Refuge Ceremony. In New York, 53 people connected with the Buddha, along with BLIA members from 19 countries, and acted in their hearts to take refuge in the Three Jewels.

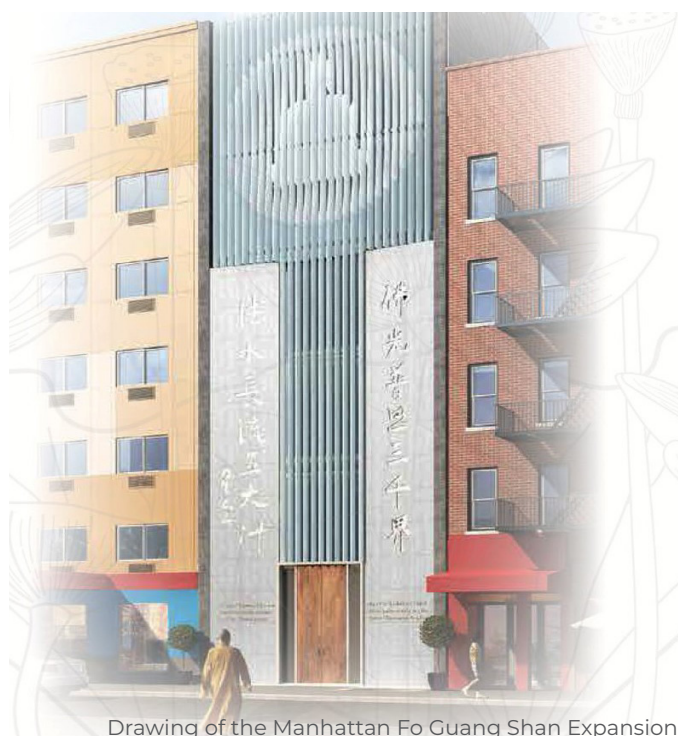
Venerable Master Hsing Yun, the founder of Fo Guang Shan, wishes that “the Buddha’s light will illuminate the 3,000 realms and the Dharma water will flow on the 5 continents.” The ceremony reflected his wishes because the event was seen all over the world.

9: With Roots in New York, We Look Forward to Embracing the World Ahead

Counting Down Until Our Expansion into Another Borough!

On January 10, 2021, the New York Temple launched the first online “Fo Guang Shan Manhattan Office Dharma Service” to bless and pray for the upcoming construction to go smoothly. Venerable You Wang, Venerable Chueh Rang, Venerable You Ren, Venerable Miao Chu, and over 100 disciples chanted the Diamond Sutra throughout the entire day.

The building proposal has already been submitted to the NYC Department of Buildings for review. The interior design has been planned and approved. Once open, the Fo Guang Shan Manhattan Center will offer a space for locals to meditate and learn Buddhism, becoming a cultural exchange center between the East and the West.



Drawing of the Manhattan Fo Guang Shan Expansion

IBPS New York Activities

March

- 3/1 (Tue)** 6:30am Ten Lectures on Humanistic Buddhist Classics
【The liberation concept of the Sixth Patriarch's Altar Sutra】
- 3/3 (Thur)** 7:30pm Adult Chinese Class
- 3/5 (Sat)** 3:30am Taiwan Meditation Online Lantern Offering Prayer Ceremony
9:30am IBPS Chinese School
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 3/6 (Sun)** 3:30am Taiwan Meditation Online Lantern Offering Prayer Ceremony
10:00am Light Offering Chanting Prayer for Longevity
- 3/12 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
1:00pm (Chinese) North American Human Academy Online Commencement Ceremony
2:00pm (English) North American Human Academy Online Commencement Ceremony
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 3/13 (Sun)** 10:00am Building a temple and praying for blessings in Fo Guang Shan, Manhattan
- 3/19 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
- 3/16 (Web)** 6:00am UN CSW66 Women's Parallel Meeting
- 3/26 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 3/27 (Sun)** 10:00 am Puja Sunday Service

IBPS New York Activities

April

- 4/1 (Fri)** 7:30am Ten Lectures of Buddhist Classics in the Human World
【Diamond Sutra of Abstinence】
- 4/2 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 4/3 (Sun)** 10:00am Light Offering Chanting Prayer for Longevity
- 4/9 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 4/10 (Sun)** 9:30am Ching Ming Festival
- 4/16 (Sat)** 7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class
- 4/17 (Sun)** 10:00am Build a temple and pray for blessings in Fo Guang Shan, Manhattan
- 4/23 (Sat)** 9:30am Seminar for the cadres of the Eastern Buddha Light Association
- 4/24 (Sun)** 10:00am Puja Sunday Service
- 4/30 (Sat)** 9:30am IBPS Chinese School
7:00pm Three Acts of Goodness Children's Class



佛光山
International Buddhist Progress Society



國際佛光會紐約協會
Buddha's Light International Association, New York

154-37 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355
Tel: 718-939-8318, 718-939-9318
E-mail: newyork@ibps.org
Website: fgsny.org

