

# 佛光世紀

星  
空  
印



## Buddha's Light New York



[www.fgsny.org](http://www.fgsny.org)

## Welcome to the 4th 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* has been working on! From May to June, BLIA has been contributing towards a mission of equality and social progress around the world.

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, BLIA was invited to join Mayor Adams' celebration at Gracie Mansion and NYC's first-ever AAPI Cultural and Heritage Parade.

To promote interfaith collaboration, BLIA has also participated in the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Graduation and the Interfaith Prayer Vigil for the victims of the May 14th Buffalo, NY shooting.



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple

## BLIA in the Community



Donating masks to Cliffside Health Care Center



Volunteering at Moore Jackson Community Garden



Award recipient at Elmhurst Hospital's AAPI Heritage Celebration



BLIA Scouts hosting a food drive

## Executive Board

**President:** Cindy Lin

**Vice Presidents:** Jenny Chen

Kenneth Jin

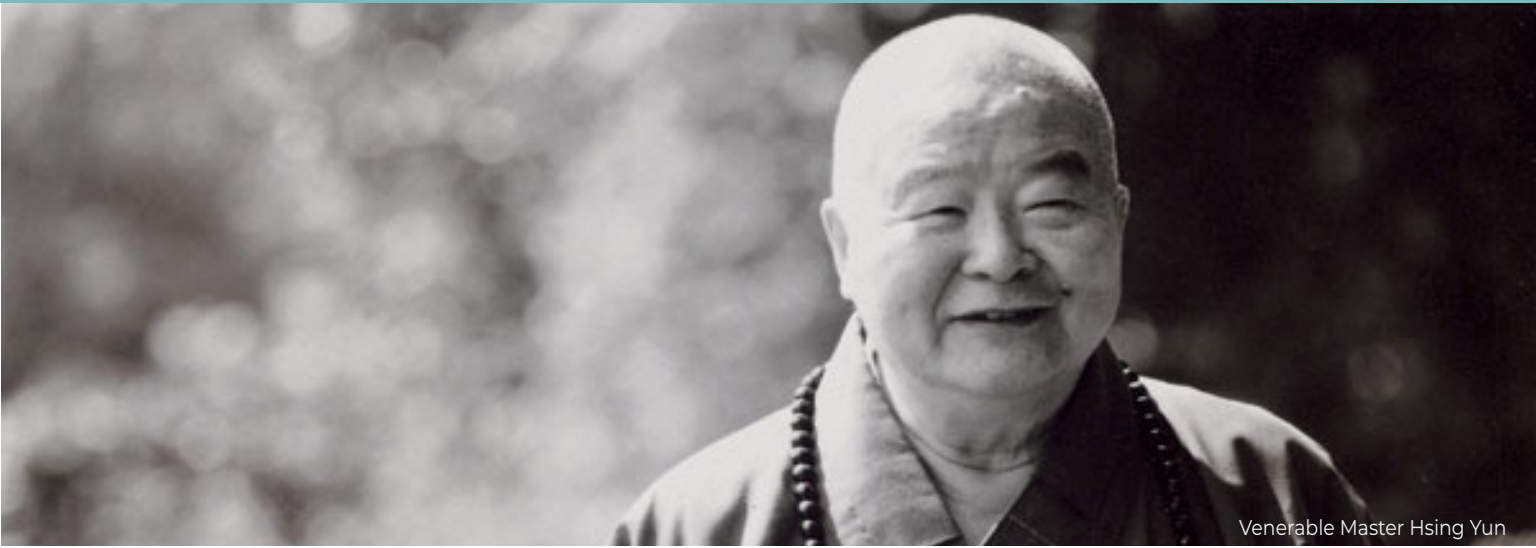
**Publisher:** Buddha's Light International Association

**Editors:** Angelina Sun, Emily Wang, Helen Leong

**Design:** Angelina Sun

**Printer:** AMAX Printing, Inc.

# “Let The Dharma Water Flow Across All Five Continents”



Venerable Master Hsing Yun

**Humanistic Buddhism** is the foundation of the Fo Guang Shan International Buddhist Order and a modern Buddhist philosophy practiced mostly by Mahayana Buddhists.

According to Venerable Master Hsing Yun, Founder of Fo Guang Shan, the Buddha wanted the teachings of Buddhism to be relevant to the human world. The Buddha's very life as a human being has given us all an inspiration and a model for the spiritual path and for making our own lives a spiritual practice. The Buddhism that the Buddha gave us is humanistic, and Humanistic Buddhism is the integration of our spiritual practice into all aspects of our daily lives.

The goal of Humanistic Buddhism is to live the bodhisattva way, which means to be an energetic, enlightened, and endearing person who strives to help all sentient beings liberate themselves. It focuses on issues of the world rather than on how to leave the world behind; on caring for the living, rather than the dead; on benefiting others, rather than benefiting oneself; and on universal salvation, rather than cultivation for only oneself.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun said, “If we practice Humanistic Buddhism, or in other words, apply the Buddhist teachings to our everyday living, then we possess the entire universe, happy and at peace in all we do.”



Chan Master Wumen Huikai

“The spring has its flowers, the autumn its bright full moon; the summer has its cool breezes, the winter its snow. So long as one is not caught up in mundane worries, then every season is a wonderful season.”

- Chan Master Wumen Huikai,  
(1183 – 1260)

# Purify Your Heart at Fo Guang Shan's Buddha Bathing Ceremony



Three generations gathering at the Buddha Bathing Station

On May 8th, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple celebrated the Buddha's Birthday with an online Dharma Service and an outdoor Buddha Bathing Ceremony. Over 300 members and their families showed up to the Buddha-bathing pavilion in person. When bathing the Buddha, one should pray for peace, harmony, and elimination of violence and evil in the world. The benefits of bathing the Buddha include happiness, good health, longevity, wealth, and peace for family and friends. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the community was encouraged to seek purification and blessings from the Buddha to eliminate suffering and conflicts and to usher in a peaceful and bright future.



FGS volunteer helping a Cub Scout bathe the Buddha



Community members were welcome to bathe the Buddha

# Celebrating Buddhism at the First-Ever AAPI Parade in NYC



The "Three Good" Figures on BLIA's Float

New York City's first-ever Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Cultural and Heritage Parade was held on May 15, 2022.

As New Yorkers celebrated and honored AAPI Heritage Month in May, the parade paid tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched New York's history. New York City is currently home to the second-largest Asian American and Pacific Islander population in the United States.

Organized by Better Chinatown USA, the parade took place on 6th Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. Over 150 local organizations and 20 floats marched in the parade to showcase Asian culture to the community.

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple also participated with a float and presented the Buddhist "Three Good" figures who speak good words, think good thoughts, and do good deeds. The Fo Guang Shan community and Buddha's Light New York Chapter enthusiastically came together to teach and present Buddhist concepts to the public.



BLIA's Float in the AAPI Cultural and Heritage Parade in New York City



BLIA volunteers preparing to march in the parade

# Honoring the Precious Lives Lost in the Buffalo Mass Shooting

## Mayor Adams Hosts an Interfaith Prayer Vigil

On May 16th, Pastor Gilford Monroe, Director of the Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, led an interfaith prayer vigil at Bethel Gospel Assembly in Harlem for the victims of the May 14th mass shooting in Buffalo, New York that killed ten people and injured three people.

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple's Venerable You Wang was invited to the vigil on behalf of the Buddhist community, together with James Lynch, President of the Buddhist Council of New York. Ten religious representatives, including Venerable You Wang, each presented flowers, with each flower symbolizing the precious lives lost in the shooting.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams expressed his gratitude to all the religious leaders for coming together to pray for the victims and their families. New York State Attorney General Letitia James, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams took the stage to express their grief. Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and City Councilwoman Gale Brewer also attended the vigil.



Pastor Gilford Monroe



Venerable You Wang praying for the victims



Mayor Eric Adams paying respect the lives lost

# Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at Gracie Mansion



Award Recipients



(L-R) Winnie Greco, Venerable You Wang, Venerable Jue Lin



(L-R) Shirley Huang, Megan Yuan, Venerable Jue Lin, Venerable You Wang



Venerable You Wang and Venerable Jue Lin with NYPD Officers

On the evening of May 17th, NYC Mayor Eric Adams held an Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration at Gracie Mansion. He invited elected officials, community leaders, and advocates of the AAPI community, as well as Asian American members of the FDNY and NYPD to attend the celebration overlooking the East River.

Venerable Jue Lin, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan NY Temple, and Venerable You Wang represented Buddha's Light International Association. Elected officials in attendance included Councilwoman Linda Lee, Councilman Ari Kagan, Councilwoman Gale Brewer, State Senator Kevin Thomas, and Councilwoman Julie Won.

"I am delighted to host the first Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration at Gracie Mansion. New York City will continue to embrace diversity, oppose any act of xenophobia and hate, and improve public safety," Mayor Adams said. "We are all immigrants from other places coming to the United States to pursue a better life. Asian immigrants and their ancestors have made many major contributions to the United States, from the early construction of railways to the commercial development of communities around the world. Even during the COVID-19 lockdown of the city, they have not stopped serving."

Mayor Adams praised the sacrifices and contributions Asian Americans have made towards the advancement of New York City, honoring several Asian Americans with a proclamation for their service: FDNY Battalion Chief Steven Lee, EMS Deputy Chief John Paul-Dimen, NYPD Highway Patrol Commander Sylvester Ge, Korean American Community Empowerment Council President John Park, and Department of Education teacher Anna Leong-Goldstein.



# Mayor Adams Declares June 18, 2022 as “VegRun Day” in New York City

On June 18th, the “2022 Global Veggie-Revival Community VegRun” North America kicked off with its opening ceremony at NYC’s Hunter’s Point South Park, Long Island City. New York VegRun Ambassador John Liu, State Senator, led over 200 participants to run for vegetarianism/veganism.

State and local officials, as well as faith leaders, came to show their support. Winnie Greco, Special Advisor to the Mayor and Director of Asian Affairs, represented Mayor Adams in presenting IBPS and BLIA NY a Proclamation to declare June 18th, 2022 as “VegRun Day” in New York City. Our distinguished guests included Ebony Young, Deputy Queens Borough President, Sandra Ung, Councilwoman for District 20, James Lynch, President of the Buddhist Council of NY, Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of NY, and Shirley Huang, Director of Public Relations for CAIPA.



Special Guests at the VegRun Opening Ceremony



VegRun Mascots BoBo and DouDou

In order to save the earth from the impact of global warming, BLIA President Cindy Lin called on the public to create a better world by driving less, taking public transportation, walking more, eating more vegetables, exercising, recycling, and reducing waste. Venerable Jue Lin, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan NY Temple, explained that environmental protection is an important practice towards enlightenment. As people of the earth, we should work to implement practical actions for environmental protection.

“Veg” encourages people to eat more vegetables to slow down global warming and “Run” encourages people to go out and exercise. All are invited to run, walk, or jog to raise awareness for environmental protection issues and sustainable production and consumption. Additionally, to support people in need in New York City, BLIA NY has pledged to donate \$ 1 for every 2 miles completed by participants. All accumulated proceeds will be donated to the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City.



VegRun Ambassador John Liu leading the race

# VegRun Support in North America Comes Together Stronger Than Ever

Sponsored by Buddha's Light International Association and iPureGreen, VegRun is a global initiative to promote vegetarianism, with countries running one after another. South America launched the series in May with their community run, passing the torch over to North America and Europe for their kickoff on June 18th, followed by countries in Oceania, Africa, and concluding in Asia. Over 28 Fo Guang Shan branches in North America gathered at famous landmarks all over the country to celebrate the start of the month-long VegRun. More than 5,500 people participated on that day, accumulating almost 50,000 kilometers.

In the center of Los Angeles, Hsi Lai Temple designed three routes to accommodate the needs of the public, with the theme of taking concrete actions to be kind to the environment and reconciling with the planet. The New Jersey branch launched their "Global Vegetarian Walking Challenge" one month in advance. The total number of steps of the 32 participants exceeded 6 million steps, about 4,825 kilometers. Venerable Yi Hung, Abbott of Fo Guang Shan Hawaii, explained the significance of VegRun and encouraged the public to go outside and exercise in the fresh air.



BLIA's San Francisco Chapter at the Golden Gate Bridge



Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti showed his support for VegRun



Ready, Set, Go! BLIA's Florida Chapter participated in VegRun

Over 300 people, including Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, attended Toronto's opening ceremony in Markham Museum Park. The funds raised were donated to the Yee Hong Foundation and Mississauga Food Bank. The Ottawa branch accumulated about 500 kilometers and hosted a "You Run, I Plant Trees" activity. 100 people from the Vancouver branch gathered in King George Park and Stanley Park, while also providing live broadcasts on YouTube and Facebook.



BLIA's Boston Chapter at Quincy Market

The Florida branch in the United States and Montreal branch in Canada both hosted a "Run For Children's Hospital" event to raise funds for local children's hospitals and public welfare programs. In addition to VegRun, the branches in Colorado and Edmonton initiated a food bank to provide food to those in need. The Miami branch sponsored "You Run, I Help Students," donating funds to the city of Tamarac's "Operation Backpack." Tamarac Mayor Michelle Gomez and former Mayor Beth Talabisco participated and showed their support.



BLIA's Ottawa Chapter welcomed all Canadians to race

220 people participated in North Carolina's VegRun, donating funds to "We Plant It Forward," a local tree planting and environmental protection group. Executive Director Maggie Bailey also attended and donated saplings. Funds from the San Diego branch were donated to "Tree San Diego," a local tree planting organization to support the environment. After passing through 16 historical sites, the Boston branch also provided VegRun participants with the opportunity to learn about the history of American Independence.



People of all ages joined in the fun by BLIA's Ottawa Chapter



Tamarac Mayor Michelle Gomez and former Mayor Beth Talabisco participated in Florida's VegRun

# Three Acts of Goodness Summer Camp Returns to the Deer Park Retreat Center



Three Acts of Goodness Summer Camp Opening Ceremony

On June 30, the 2022 Three Acts of Goodness Children's Summer Camp kicked off its opening ceremony at the Fo Guang Shan Deer Park Retreat Center. The summer camp welcomed 30 children to connect with nature, practice the Three Acts of Goodness (Do Good Deeds, Speak Good Words, and Think Good Thoughts), and explore this year's theme of acceptance and growth.

On the first day of camp, special guests Fo Guang Shan New York Temple's Venerable Jue Lin, Venerable You Wang, and Venerable You Lin, joined by Jenny Chen, Vice President of the BLIA-New York Chapter, and Shi Jiqing, President of BLIA-Washington Chapter, were invited to attend the opening ceremony. For the first time in two years following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Three Acts of Goodness Summer Camp was held in person.



Arts & crafts: paper lanterns



Campers participated in various outdoor activities

During the opening ceremony, a large handmade lotus flower was displayed to symbolize the goodness, truth, and beauty of Buddhism in the world. Venerable Jue Lin, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, also presented sashes to the two camp deputies, Danny and Evan.

Venerable Jue Lin stated that the Three Acts of Goodness Children's Summer Camp will teach the campers to open their hearts to be flexible and accepting. Jenny Chen also encouraged all the campers to cherish the opportunity to gather in person and live in the moment.

From June 30 to July 2, campers had the opportunity to make new friends, gain self-confidence, and learn new skills. Venerable Jue Lin invited the children and parents to visit the New York Temple and join one of the many programs offered, including Scouts and Chinese School.



Summer camp counselors



Campers and counselors took turns roasting marshmallows



Three Acts of Goodness Children's Summer Camp Prayer Service

# Encouraging the Interfaith Civic Leaders of Tomorrow



Councilmember Shahana Hanif with ICLA Fellows



(L-R) Dr. Marie-Lily Cerat, Venerable You Wang, Vajah Ramjattan



Venerable You Wang and Community Affairs Deputy Chief Max Tolentino



(L-R) Venerable You Wang, Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Hajj Mohamed Amen

On June 29th, Venerable You Wang attended the 2021-2022 Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Graduation at the Interfaith Center of New York. As a past fellow of the 2017-2018 cohort, Venerable You Wang showed her support for the graduates and applauded the efforts and dedication provided by the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy.

Reverend Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of New York, welcomed the fellows and their families to the graduation ceremony and praised their hard work and commitment throughout the past six months. Keynote speaker Shahana Hanif, NYC Councilmember of District 39, praised the religious leaders for connecting with new resources and people across the city to strengthen their commitment to faith. Past fellow Dr. Marie-Lily Cerat, Co-founder of Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, shared that the program has given her the opportunity to meet people she would have never had the chance to meet. She took the resources she gained and brought it back to benefit her community.

The Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy (ICLA) is an intensive leadership development program supporting a select group of 15 clergy members, lay leaders, and faith-based activists. In the six-month series of evening workshops and site visits to each other's congregations, ICLA fellows explored diverse models of civic engagement and religious leadership, legislative and policy advocacy strategies, grass-roots community organizing strategies, guided reflection on leadership skills, and Interfaith dialogue and diversity education. The fellows then apply what they have learned towards community projects – working individually or collaboratively to contribute to the civic life of New York.

2022-2023 School Year



紐約佛光中文學校

IBPS New York Chinese School

154-37 Barclay Ave., Flushing, NY 11355

# Chinese Program now open for registrations

REGISTER

NOW



## Model Available:

In-person, Hybrid &  
Interactive Online Learning  
Pre-K\*, K-Grade 8, Youth, Adult

- \$ Early Bird Discount
- \$ Group Discount / Referral Discount

- ✓ 2.5 hours activities
- ✓ Health Snack
- ✓ Learning Time:  
Saturday @ 9:30-12:10PM/  
@ 1:30-04:10PM  
Sunday\* @ 9:30-12:10PM

Fun Learning. New Experiences and Activity



Call:

917-705-0234



\* Offer interactive online learning model only.



# 佛光山紐約道場

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple



## 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](mailto:newyork@ibps.org)

Website: [fgsny.org](http://fgsny.org)

