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Buddha's Light New York



www.fgsny.org

Welcome to the 5th 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 July to August, BLIA has been contributing towards a mission of equality and social progress around the world.

This year marks BLIA's 30th anniversary! Stop by Fo Guang Shan NY Temple to view the special window exhibition on display! Over the past 30 years, the New York chapter has been participating in many events with the community, and the past two months are no exception! From the VegRun Award Ceremony and the Chinese School Summer Camp to the Interfaith Center of New York's Annual Gala, BLIA continues to be a pillar of the community.



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple

BLIA in the Community



Promoting VegRun at the First Dragon Boat Cultural Festival



Planting flowers at Moore Jackson Community Garden



Encouraging kids to be active at the "Scouts' Mini Olympics"



Eagle Scouts' Household Waste Recycling Day

Executive Board

President: Cindy Lin

Vice Presidents: Jenny Chen
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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”



The **Objectives of Fo Guang Shan** are to promote the principles of Humanistic Buddhism and to foster peace and harmony among all people of the world. The founder, Venerable Master Hsing Yun, has guided this effort by providing educational opportunities, sponsoring cultural events, engaging in community service, and extensively writing and teaching about the Buddhist path of wisdom and compassion. Venerable Master Hsing Yun emphasizes not needing to “go some place else” to find enlightenment, or paradise, for we can realize our true nature right here and now, within the precious human birth and this world.

The **Four Founding Principles of Fo Guang Shan** are:

- To propagate Buddhist teachings through cultural activities
- To nurture talents through education
- To benefit societies through charitable programs
- To purify human hearts and minds through Buddhist practices

For nearly half a century, Venerable Master Hsing Yun has devoted his efforts to transforming this world through the practice of Humanistic Buddhism. He reminds us that to transform our world, we must be actively engaged in it.

“Community transcends the individual and, in doing so, fulfills the individual in the most complete way possible.”

Wherever he goes, he encourages people to unite both the local and global communities into a world of complete equality, joyfulness, and perfect peace.



The Buddhist Community Continues to Grow at the ICNY's Annual Gala



(L-R): Venerable You Lin, Venerable You Wang, Venerable Jing Yi (of Grace Gratitude Buddhist Temple)

On June 20th, The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) hosted its annual gala at the Tribeca Rooftop to commemorate its 25th anniversary. Venerable You Wang and Venerable You Lin, of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, represented Buddha's Light International Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the gala was held in person for the first time in two years.

This year's honorees receiving the "James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards" were Civil Rights Icon Ruby Bridges and Human Rights Advocate Amed Khan. Ruby Bridges was the first African American child to enter the public school system in New Orleans in 1960, paving the way for the Civil Rights movement in the South. Amed Khan is the founder of Elpida Home in Greece, which has helped more than 1,500 refugees from Syria and Iraq re-establish their homeland in Western countries.



(L-R): Sylvie Sun, Hanadi Doleh, Ven. You Lin, Ven. You Wang, Ravi Vaidyanat



(L-R): Ven. You Wang, The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Ven. You Lin



Very Rev. Michael J. Lynch with Ven. You Lin, Ven. You Wang

In addition to Buddha's Light International Association, other guests included Venerable Master Ming Yu, President of the Buddhist Association of New York, and James Lynch, President of the Buddhist Council of New York, along with several monks and disciples from temples in Chinatown. This year's event had the most Buddhist masters and disciples in attendance than any previously held ICNY gala.



UN-Rep. Nermin Ahmad with Ven. You Lin and Ven. You Wang



(L-R): Ven. You Lin, Ven. You Wang, Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa Sak



(L-R): Venerable You Lin, Venerable You Wang, Mark Mitton



New York-Presbyterian Hospital Staff Explores Buddhism and Mindfulness

On June 22, staff members from the New York-Presbyterian Hospital visited Fo Guang Shan New York Temple to learn more about Humanistic Buddhism. Mercedes Reyes, Senior Director of Patient Services, and Jampa Wang, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Education, along with two religious trainees, received a tour of the temple and expressed their interest in understanding the teachings of Buddhism.

Chen Mingzhu, a devout Buddhist who received a Master's Degree in Comparative Religion at University of the West, was also present and shared her experience working in hospice care with colleagues from New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She often explains the meaning of "Amitabha" to her patients, and how it can turn suffering into happiness and delusion into enlightenment, to allow people to rediscover life with newfound hope.



New York-Presbyterian Hospital Staff Members



New York-Presbyterian Hospital Staff Touring Fo Guang Shan Temple

Venerable You Wang introduced the characteristics and practices of Fo Guang Shan and its work towards advancing Humanistic Buddhism. Afterwards, Venerable You Lin led a meditation class and explained the “Seven-Point Sitting Method of Vairocana” and how adjusting the body and breathing will improve the mind.

Abbess Venerable Jue Lin also explained Humanistic Buddhism’s view on death. Because death is inevitable, people must actively participate in activities, such as education, culture, and charity, to benefit their own lives and the world. Fo Guang Shan and Buddha’s Light International Association has collaborated with many other religions to promote peace.



Venerable You Lin leading a meditation

VegRun Award Winners Announced: One Step Closer To An Environmentally Sustainable Future

On July 16th, the New York chapter of Buddha's Light International Association hosted an award ceremony to celebrate the conclusion of the 2022 Global Veggie-Revival Community VegRun, a movement to promote environmental sustainability and vegetarianism. The New York chapter accumulated over 6,800 kilometers (about 4,225 miles), raising a total of \$8,000 for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

Special guests Jasper Diaz (NYC Mayor's Office Representative), Angelica Perez (NYC Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Representative), Peter Koo (Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety), Sandra Ung (City Councilwoman for District 20), Shirley Huang (Director of Public Relations at CAIPA), and Ravi Vaidyanat (Director of Religious Affairs at the Hindu Temple Society of North America) were present to congratulate the award winners. The New York chapter also issued certificates of appreciation to the restaurants that donated vegetarian lunch boxes to the VegRun participants.



New York Temple Abbess Venerable Jue Lin





Jasper Diaz - NYC Mayor's Office Representative



Angelica Perez - Mayor's Office of Community Affairs Representative



Peter Koo - Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety



Sandra Ung - District 20 Councilwoman

Cindy Lin, President of BLIA's New York chapter, thanked the Mayor's Office and the New York City Parks Department for their assistance and support in the opening ceremony at Hunter's Point South Park on June 18. The Mayor of New York City also declared June 18 as "VegRun Day" and encouraged BLIA to continue to host this meaningful event every year.



(L-R): Jasper Diaz, Peter Koo, Venerable You Wang, Sandra Ung, Angelica Perez

New York Cheerleading Team Rejoices for the Buddha's Light

The 2022 BLIA Virtual 4th Meeting of the Seventh Board of Directors will begin in the United States on October 1, 2022. Each BLIA branch has undergone intensive preparations for the closing ceremony on October 8th. The ceremony will showcase the “Buddha’s Light” performance, featuring inspiring music from “supporters of the Buddha across all the seas.” Special thanks are given to the Los Angeles chapter for the video editing and all the BLIA branches for submitting videos of their performances at the iconic landmarks where their temples are located. The videos represent the vitality of Buddha’s Light supporters and show that there are Buddha’s Light supporters all around the world.



New York Fo Guang Cheerleading Team

The New York Fo Guang Cheerleading Team represented the New York branch with a performance filmed at Hunter’s Point South Park, with views overlooking the world-famous Empire State Building and United Nations. 10 cheerleaders, proudly wearing the crown of the Statue of Liberty, performed energetic and collaborative dances, while waving the American and Buddhist flags.



New York Fo Guang Cheerleading Team Performing at Hunter’s Point South Park

New York Temple Promotes Gardening For Sustainable Living



Tomatoes



Cantaloupe

To promote environmental sustainability, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple has established an on-site garden to grow vegetables for daily consumption. The temple has successfully planted a variety of vegetables in the garden, including eggplants, celery, cucumbers, bitter melons, tomatoes, green beans, peppers, and more! Not only are the vegetables exceptionally fresh, but they are also grown organically. Venerable Jue Lin, Abbess of the New York Temple, encouraged others to try growing their own vegetables to promote healthy eating and improve their quality of life.



Bitter Melon



Green Beans

Summer Campers Showcase Their Newest Talents and Skills



The 2022 Fo Guang Chinese School Summer Camp celebrated the end of its 6-week program with a talent show and open house. Family and friends were able to see performances and displays of the students' hard work during camp. Fo Guang Shan New York Temple Abbess Venerable Jue Lin praised the children's summer learning activities and hopes the "Three Good" seeds will continue to take root and grow strong.

From July 5 to August 12, the New York Temple's fourth floor Chinese school and its classrooms were bustling with enthusiastic children of all ages, teaching staff, and volunteers. Alongside Chinese classes, the children learned yoga, painting, chess, table tennis, badminton, basketball, planting/gardening, crafting, singing, and decoding the world of science and technology. They were also able to take part in outdoor activities, such as hiking, nature sketching, water balloon fights, and visiting the local library and park.





Once a week, the Venerables would lead a “Reading with Master” storytime and Chinese Culture class, where children would listen to traditional Chinese stories, learn to write calligraphy, and appreciate the beauty of Chinese culture.

To conclude the open house and talent show, all the campers gathered on stage to sing their final performance of “See You Again” with hopes to see their friends and counselors again next summer! The parents expressed their gratitude to the Fo Guang Chinese School staff and volunteers for organizing such a worthwhile program for their children to attend.



30th Anniversary Exhibition Captures the Success of BLIA's NY Chapter



The year “2022” marks the 30th anniversary of Buddha’s Light International Association. To commemorate the anniversary, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple has created a “30th Anniversary Window Exhibition.” Under the guidance of New York Temple Abbess Venerable Jue Lin and all the temple venerables, volunteers worked together for one month to carefully design and arrange the display.

Featuring a miniature replica of the mountain of Fo Guang Shan, the exhibition also showcases the establishment of Buddha’s Light International Association, the history of promoting Buddhism, and the achievements made by the local New York chapter, in both Chinese and English.



Over the past 30 years, the New York chapter has held many events, including reading clubs, Chinese school, summer camps, baby blessing ceremonies, donation drives, and VegRun to give back to the community and promote Humanistic Buddhism.

Since its formation, BLIA has continuously advocated for Buddhism around the world, expanding to over 500 chapters and 4 million members worldwide. The organization is constantly transforming and growing with the goal of promoting Buddhism and establishing a pure land on Earth.





佛光山紐約道場

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple



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