

佛光世紀



Buddha's Light New York



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Edition #6

September — October 2022

Welcome to the 6th 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 September to October, BLIA has been contributing towards a mission of equality and social progress around the world.

The past two months were full of charity work and celebrations! BLIA donated the funds raised from VegRun to New Yorkers in need and collaborated with "Heart of Dinner" to provide seniors with fresh food. The New York Chapter also participated in the Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations at Gracie Mansion and Queens Borough Hall, Spiritual Care Week at Elmhurst Hospital, and the opening ceremony for the Buddha's Light Scouts program.



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple

BLIA in the Community



Participating in "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk



Celebrating the Chinese School's Harvest Festival



Organizing a park clean-up at Murray Hill Playground



Hosting a Wilderness Survival Skills Course for BLIA Scouts

Executive Board

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According to Venerable Master Hsing Yun, Founder of Fo Guang Shan, Humanistic Buddhism has six characteristics:

• Humanism

• The Buddha was a living human being. It was through his human existence that he showed his supreme wisdom of compassion, ethical responsibility, and prajna-wisdom.

• Emphasis on Daily Life

• In his teachings, the Buddha placed great importance on daily life as spiritual practice. He provided guidance on everything and gave clear directions on every aspect of life.

• Altruism

• The Buddha was born into this world to teach, to provide an example, and to bring joy to all beings. The Buddha nurtured all beings, for he always had the best interests of others in his heart and mind. His every thought, word, and action arose from a heart filled with deep care and concern for others.

• Joyfulness

• Through the limitless compassion of his heart, the Buddha aimed to relieve the suffering of all beings and to give them joy.

• Timeliness

• Although the Buddha lived some 2,500 years ago and has already entered nirvana, he left the seed of liberation for all subsequent generations. Even today, the Buddha's ideals and teachings serve as timely, relevant guides for us all.

• Universality

• The entire life of the Buddha can be characterized by the Buddha's spirit of wanting to liberate all beings, without exclusion. The Buddha loved beings of all forms, whether they were animals or humans, male or female, young or old, Buddhist or not Buddhist, etc.

BLIA Promotes Healthy Eating at the Queens Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On September 1st, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards hosted the first-ever Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration, featuring traditional performances, interactive cultural activities, free moon cakes, refreshments, and more. The event took place at Queens Borough Hall's Helen Marshall Cultural Center. Venerable Chueh Lin, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, attended the ceremony with the New York Temple Venerables, BLIA President Cindy Lin, and 20 BLIA members.

Distinguished guests included Deputy Queens Borough President Ebony Young, NYS Senator John Liu, Councilwoman Linda Lee, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Manuel Castro, and Former Judge of the NYC Housing Court Karen Lin.

Queens Borough President Richards welcomed guests to the Mid-Autumn Festival and Fall Harvest Celebration. As the World's Borough, Queens is home to 2.3 million ethnically diverse residents, with immigrants from over 120 countries speaking 135 languages. He emphasized the importance of multiculturalism and promised to continue supporting immigrants and their cultures.



New York Temple Venerables with Queens Borough President Donovan Richards



BLIA Venerables and members distributing vegetarian snacks



Traditional Korean Drum Performance



Chinese Dance Performance



Venerables with Linda Lee, Alexander Hart, Shirley Huang



New York Temple Venerables with Miss Immigrant USA contestants

The celebration included traditional Chinese and Korean dances. Participants were also able to take part in lantern making, calligraphy, and paper fortune crafts. Many traditional Asian snacks were provided, including mooncakes, fried rice, kimbap, songpyeon (half-moon shaped rice cakes) sushi, and more. To support the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration and promote healthy eating, Buddha’s Light International Association presented vegetarian versions of traditional Chinese snacks, including rice dumplings, Taiwanese steamed buns (gua bao), and quinoa salad.

The event was co-sponsored by the offices of Congresswoman Grace Meng, NYS Senator John Liu, Councilwoman Linda Lee, Councilwoman Sandra Ung, and Councilwoman Julie Won. Buddha’s Light International Association, as well as Healthfirst, Garden of Hope, The Korean American Family Service Center, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, and HanfuNYC were also invited to participate as event sponsors.



Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration Event Sponsors

Mayor Adams invites BLIA to Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival at Gracie Mansion

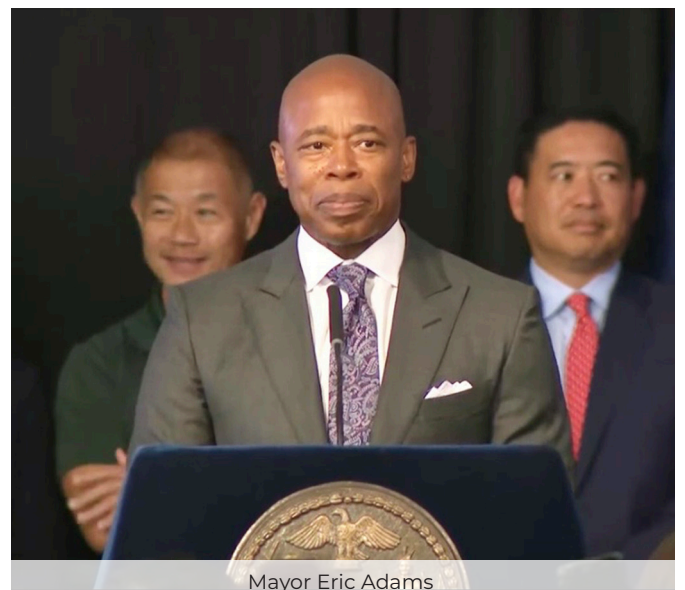


Venerable Chueh Lin, Venerable You Wang, Venerable You Lin and the Fo Guang Shan New York Localization Team

New York City Mayor Eric Adams held a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration at Gracie Mansion on September 9th. Venerable Chueh Lin, Abbess of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, Venerable You Wang, and Venerable You Lin, along with members of the Fo Guang Shan New York Localization Team were invited to attend the celebration.

The Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration presented many multicultural performances showcasing the beauty and diversity of Asian culture. The event also featured vegetarian dishes, such as dumplings, fried rice, spring rolls, and more.

To begin the celebration, Mayor Adams welcomed and thanked the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for their efforts and contributions to New York City. Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival together promotes community unity and strengthens the bond to fight against the rising number of hate crimes in New York City. As we re-emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic that has devastated families and businesses in the community, Mayor Adams emphasized the significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival as a new awakening to build up the city.



Mayor Eric Adams



Venerable Chueh Lin, Venerable You Wang, Venerable You Lin, and Winnie Greco (Special Advisor to the Mayor)

Many government officials and representatives of the Asian community were also present, including NYS Senator John Liu, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, NYS Liquor Authority Commissioner Lily Fan, NYC Department of Small Business Services Commissioner Kevin Kim, Special Advisor to the Mayor and Director of Asian Affairs Winnie Greco, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Peter Koo, Councilmember Linda Lee, Councilmember Sandra Ung, and Councilmember Marjorie Velazquez.



Venerable Chueh Lin, Venerable You Wang, Venerable You Lin, and cultural performers

Buddha's Light Illuminates Maple Grove Cemetery's 9/11 Memorial



Boy Scouts Troop 117 leading the memorial service



Water Lantern Ceremony

On September 15th, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple's Venerable You Wang, Venerable You Lin, and Venerable Chueh Rang were invited to the 9/11 Memorial Service at Maple Grove Cemetery in Jamaica, Queens. Over 400 people, including representatives of various religions and family members of those buried in the cemetery, were present to pay tribute to the victims of the 9/11 attacks. During the memorial service, Venerable You Lin spoke about Buddhism and led the public to pray for the blessings of the Buddha. She also shared Venerable Master Hsing Yun's teachings to encourage the audience: Life should be meaningful and shine on the world.

Maple Grove Cemetery's 9/11 Memorial Service concluded with their annual Water Lantern Ceremony. Attendees were able to write their thoughts and blessings for the deceased on the water lanterns and watch them float off in Maple Grove Lake. Sending off water lanterns symbolizes sending away worries and welcoming happiness and peace.



Venerable You Lin leading a prayer to the Buddha



Kathy Yu, Assistant to the VP of Finance & Family Services, and Ven. You Lin

New York Temple Venerables Bless the Buddha's Light Scouts

On September 18th, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple held an opening ceremony for the 2022/2023 Buddha's Light Scouts Program. More than 200 people, including NY Venerables, leaders, scouts, and their parents, gathered in the temple's parking lot. The opening ceremony was hosted by Leo Tching of the Boy Scouts, and Venerable Chueh Lin, Abbess of the New York Temple. Following the National Anthem, Scouts Westley Chang, Jayden Wu, Sophia Chan, and Stephanie Lin recited the Scouts Oath and Promise. Venerable Chueh Lin also presented Boy Scout Edwin Gao with a certificate of excellence for the "5th Annual International Children's Cherish the Water of Life Environmental Justice Painting Competition."



Venerable Chueh Lin leading the scouts in a prayer



New York Temple Venerables



Venerable Chueh Lin presenting an award to Edwin Gao



New York Scouts Opening Ceremony



Presenting Jens Nielsen with an institutional partnership agreement

BLIA Signs Partnership Agreement with World Climate Foundation

The World Climate Foundation launched this year's World Biodiversity Summit series in New York City on September 21, 2022, coinciding with the 77th UN General Assembly and New York Climate Week. As an official partner of the event, BLIA put forward the urgent need to restore biodiversity with natural ecological methods, signing an institutional partnership agreement with World Climate Foundation to work together towards investing in nature-based solutions. Jens Nielsen, CEO of World Climate Foundation, gave a special thanks to BLIA, "It is extremely encouraging to see ambitious partners, like BLIA, working hands-on with solutions for forest restoration. We need to keep working towards solutions like these across the areas of innovation, investments, and policy, and keep our eyes on the target."



Key Note Opening Session: Partnership for Nature



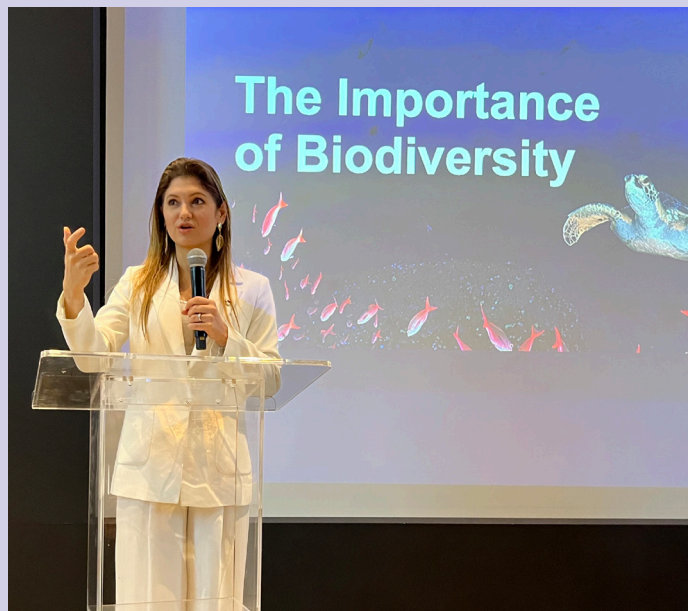
Presenting Jens Nielsen with a scroll of Venerable Master Hsing Yun's calligraphy

With a particular focus on the American market, World Biodiversity Summit serves as an important platform to bridge the climate and biodiversity crises by highlighting bold leadership and investments, creating synergies, and sharing best strategies for action. One of the goals of World Biodiversity Summit is to build bridges between the public sector and private sector and connect biodiversity and climate together.

As understanding of the connected relationship between the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis continues to grow, the connected solutions will also become increasingly evident. BLIA looks forward to continuing the partnership with World Climate Foundation and working towards building a more sustainable environment.



Brenda Mallory, Council on Environmental Quality, The White House



H.E. Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Panama



BLIA gifted Jens Nielsen with a scroll of Venerable Master Hsing Yun's calligraphy

Praying for Children and Their Loved Ones Affected by the HIV Crisis



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, delivers welcoming remarks

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) invited leaders from the religious, political, civil society, and business communities to join the Communities of Faith Breakfast: Building Partnerships for a One-Community HIV Response on September 22, 2022, at the Yale Club of New York City. Venerable You Lin, along with Judy Chiang, Helen Leong, and Angelina Sun of the Fo Guang Shan New York Localization team were invited to attend the event.

Children are one of the most underserved populations in the global response to HIV, despite the profound progress and the availability of more tools and knowledge than ever before. The HIV crisis in children has also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the interfaith breakfast is to provide a unique opportunity to present pediatric HIV promising practices by the faith sector and to discuss how to better address key gaps to ending inequalities in HIV services for children.



Communities of Faith Breakfast: Building Partnerships for a One-Community HIV Response



(L-R): Francesca Merico of UNAIDS, Judy Chiang, Venerable You Lin

Moderated by Reverend Edwin Senders, the interfaith breakfast kicked off with opening prayers led by Anwar Khan, President & Co-Founder of Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA), and Rabbi Naomi Kalish, Director of the Jewish Theological Seminary's Center for Pastoral Education. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, who will lead the United Nations' efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Dr. John Nkengasong, US Global AIDS Coordinator and PEPFAR Ambassador, emphasized the importance of faith-based leadership as a beacon of trust within the communities. Loyce Muturu, a young woman from Zimbabwe, shared her inspiring journey from a pediatric AIDS patient to peer counselor to Faith and Community Initiative (FCI) counselor and global advocate.

Dr. Timothy Efuntoye, Senior Program Specialist with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Nigeria, and Father Rick Bauer, of the Eastern Deanery AIDS Relief Program (EDARP) in Kenya, shared their innovative approaches and actions through faith-based organizations and community partnerships to end inequalities in HIV services for children.

To conclude the interfaith breakfast, Saphira Rameshfar, representing the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations, and Venerable You Lin, representing Fo Guang Shan New York Temple and Buddha's Light International Association, gave their closing blessings. Venerable You Lin encouraged the patients to learn from Venerable Master Hsing Yun's beliefs that everything has its causes and effects. Although the mind is suffering, patients must be accepting of illnesses and be willing to face all challenges.



Venerable You Lin and Judy Chiang networking at the Communities of Faith Breakfast

New York Temple Raises \$8,000 for the NYC Mayor's Office



BLIA New York presenting a check of \$8,000 for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

On September 23, Venerable Abbess Chueh Lin, along with Venerables and BLIA members of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, welcomed Chief Advisor to the Mayor, Ms. Ingrid Lewis-Martin, and Special Advisor to the Mayor, Ms. Winnie Greco, to the New York Temple for the VegRun Check Presentation Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Main Shrine after guests made a candlelight offering to the Buddha for prosperity. The offering of light extinguishes darkness and represents the Buddha's light in our hearts.



Abbess Chueh Lin, Ms. Ingrid Lewis-Martin, and Ms. Winnie Greco making a candlelight offering to the Buddha

Abbess Chueh Lin presented a check of \$8000 to Ms. Lewis-Martin and Ms. Greco as a donation to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. The funds were raised from BLIA's 2022 Global Veggie-Revival Community VegRun, a movement to promote vegetarianism and environmental sustainability. For every 2 miles accumulated by participants during VegRun, BLIA donated \$1 to support people in need in New York City.



Ms. Ingrid Lewis-Martin and Ms. Winnie Greco

Ms. Lewis-Martin and Ms. Greco accepted the check on behalf of Mayor Eric Adams and praised the efforts put forth by BLIA to advocate for vegetarianism and environmental sustainability. They look forward to continuing their work with BLIA and FGS NY Temple for next year's VegRun Day, which has been proclaimed for June 18 by Mayor Eric Adams. Working together as partners, our goal is to involve and encourage all those in New York City to live healthier lives by eating more vegetables and exercising more.

Abbess Chueh Lin invited Ms. Lewis-Martin and Ms. Greco to the Tea House for tea and vegetarian refreshments after the ceremony. The Tea House provided the guests with a comfortable and calming atmosphere to recharge during their busy day. As first-time guests of the Temple, Ms. Lewis-Martin and Ms. Greco expressed their appreciation while enjoying refreshments, as well as the company of the Venerables and BLIA members.



Distinguished Guests enjoying tea and refreshments with New York Venerables and BLIA members in the Tea House

Spreading Good Seeds and Taking Care of Our Senior Citizens



Venerable You Ren and the "Heart of Dinner" Team preparing to deliver fresh produce to those in need

Founded in 2020, the "Heart of Dinner" initiative has provided more than 100,000 meals to over 500 elderly people in New York City, many of whom are low-income, Asian seniors. Since May 2021, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple has been collaborating with Heart of Dinner, Bally Produce Corporation, and Kwong Kee Foods to supply 5 boxes of fresh vegetables and 2 boxes of dried tofu every week. The donation has totaled over \$30,000 to date. On September 28th, Venerable You Ren and three Fo Guang Shan volunteers joined Heart of Dinner founders Yin Chang and Moonlynn Tsai to pack and deliver bags of fresh produce to senior citizens. Fo Guang Shan New York Temple looks forward to continuing the partnership with Heart of Dinner to promote charity and spread love to create a pure land of Buddhism in the human world.



Volunteers helping to transport fresh fruit and vegetables



Venerable You Ren volunteering with "Heart of Dinner"

Celebrating “Spiritual and Pastoral Care Week” at Elmhurst Hospital



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple received a certificate of appreciation from CEO Helen Arteaga-Landaverde

With a history of 190 years, NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst is the second oldest hospital in New York City. Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Chief Executive Officer, invited leaders of different religions to participate and celebrate Elmhurst Hospital’s “Spiritual and Pastoral Care Week” on October 25th. Venerable You Lin and Venerable You Ren of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple and Buddhist Hospice Care Teacher Chen Ming Zhu attended and represented the Buddhist faith.

To thank the religious groups for their service and dedication to the hospital and its patients over the years, Elmhurst Hospital issued certificates of appreciation to the representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religious groups.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple held meditation and prayer activities for the hospital staff. During the height of the pandemic, Fo Guang Shan donated 6,000 surgical masks and 1,800 N95 masks to Elmhurst Hospital, the epicenter of New York City. In the future, Fo Guang Shan hopes to continue to provide spiritual comfort for the staff and patients in the hospital.

BLIA Joins the Buddhist Community to Push for Recognition of Vesak Day



The Buddhist Community gathering in front of New York City Hall

The NYC Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships and the Buddhist Council of New York invited the Buddhist leaders of New York City to meet with Mayor Eric Adams at City Hall on October 20, 2022, to announce support from the Buddhist community and to call on the city to recognize Vesak Day, a sacred day commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha. Venerable You Lin, Helen Leong, Frank Yao, and Angelina Sun of the Fo Guang Shan New York Localization team were invited to participate in the meeting.

Pastor Gilford Monrose, Faith Advisor for the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, welcomed and thanked all the Buddhist leaders for joining the meeting. James Lynch, President of the Buddhist Council of New York, began the meeting by introducing Buddhist leaders to give their opening prayers and meditations. Following the opening remarks, James Lynch introduced Buddhism in the great mosaic of New York City. He said, "The Buddha is a role model we use as a pathway to understand life. The key to the Buddhist path is to understand the sacredness of your own life, each human life, and our interconnectedness with the universe."



Mayor Eric Adams joining in the opening prayer

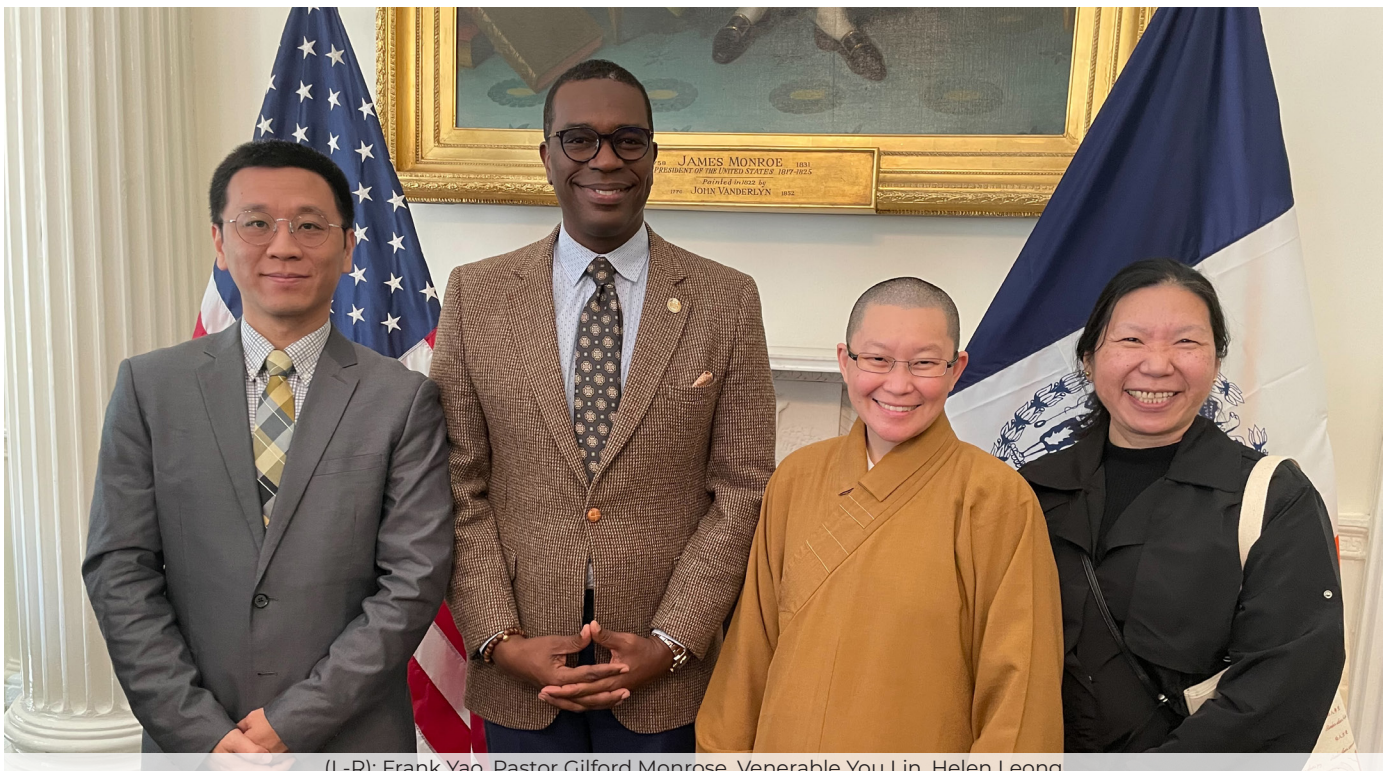


Mayor Adams listening to the concerns put forth by James Lynch

The Buddhist community has been actively involved in making New York City a more harmonious place to live, such as immigration reform, education, ending gun violence, homelessness support, peace and team building, trauma counseling, community support, and mindful eating. The Buddhist community will continue to act in a way that creates a condition for change to occur.

Mayor Adams praised the support and hard work from the Buddhist community and recounted the instance during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Buddhist monks came together to donate thousands of masks and supplies to those living within the NYCHA developments who lacked access to basic needs. He noted this as an example of the need for leaders of all faiths to brighten the light in the city and the country. Mayor Adams requested that all communities of faith continue celebrating the light in the city by leading and encouraging different groups and cultures to learn from each other.

To allow others to live in a land of tranquil light that shines toward a peaceful world, James Lynch encouraged the advancement of Vesak Day. The holiday will allow others to learn about Buddhist traditions and practices and will represent our pathway into the open dialogue of other faith traditions. Although there are state education laws, Mayor Adams expressed his willingness to work with the Buddhist community to find a harmonious solution to advance our direction towards a peaceful world. To conclude the meeting, James Lynch welcomed Buddhist leaders to give their closing prayers and remarks.



(L-R): Frank Yao, Pastor Gilford Monroe, Venerable You Lin, Helen Leong



佛光山紐約道場

Fo Guang Shan New York Temple



國際佛光會紐約協會

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