

佛光世紀



Buddha's Light New York



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Welcome to the 7th 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 November to December, BLIA has been contributing towards a mission of equality and social progress around the world.

To celebrate the season of giving, BLIA hosted many events to give back to the community, including a local playground cleanup and community toy drive. The New York Chapter also delivered Thanksgiving Appreciation Baskets to our neighborhood leaders and Laba Porridge to community members. To wrap up 2022, the New York Fo Guang Scouts were also busy preparing for their homemade Thanksgiving dinner and "Three Acts of Goodness" class.



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple

BLIA in the Community



Hiking and Cleaning Up Palisades Interstate Park



Donating fresh vegetables to senior citizens in need



Wrapping toys with students from PS22



Delivering toys to St. Mary's Hospital for Children

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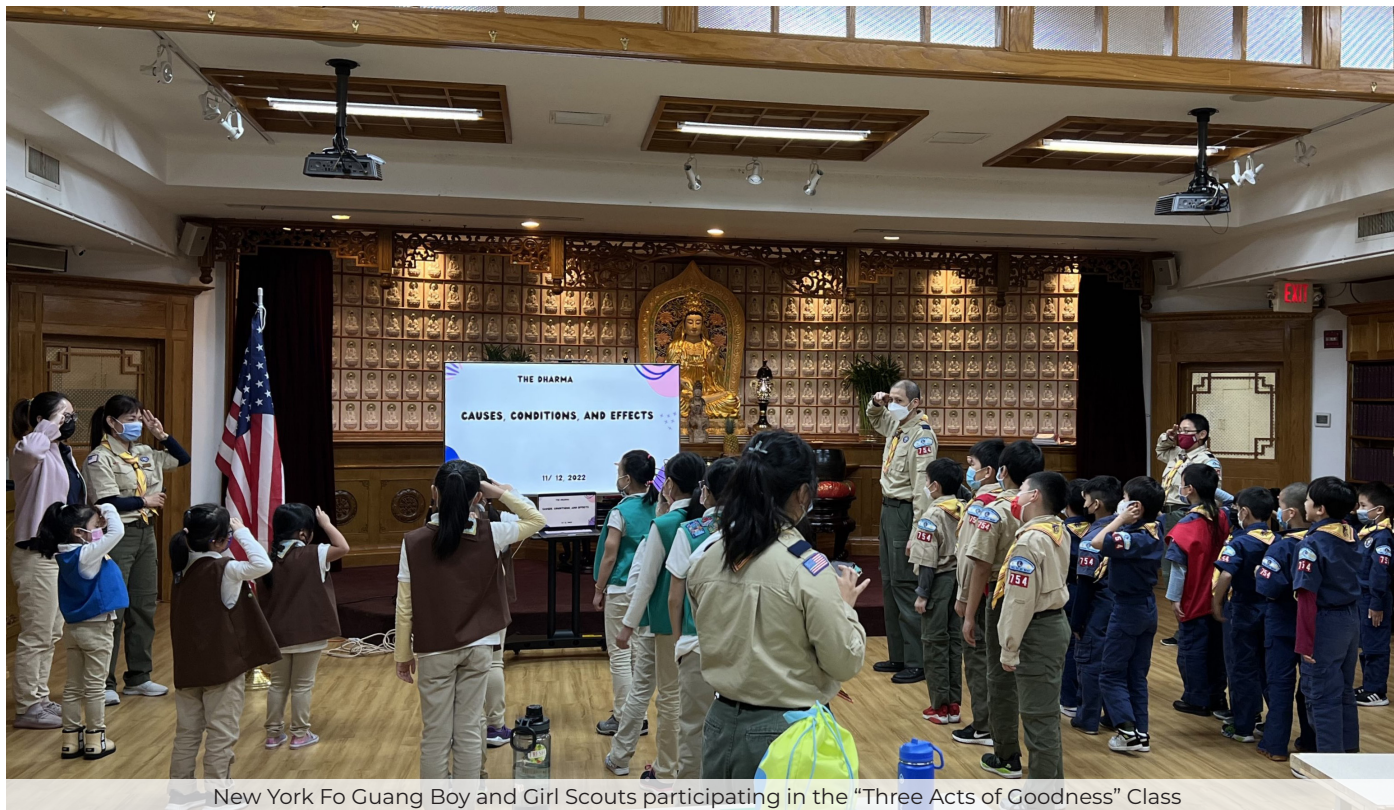
The Fo Guang Big Buddha statue in Taiwan depicts Sakyamuni Buddha.

Who Founded Buddhism?

Buddhism originated approximately 2,500 years ago in northern India (now Nepal) with the supreme enlightenment of and subsequent teachings by Sakyamuni Buddha. Born around 600 B.C. to King Suddodhana, ruler of the Sakya clan, Sakyamuni Buddha was originally named Prince Siddhartha Gautama. In childhood, he led a pampered life of royal wealth sheltered from the world's miseries. But, when as a young man, he was at last allowed to venture from the palace, he saw four sights: a decrepit old man, a person wracked with disease, a corpse, and a monk. He thus learned of life's inevitable sufferings (old age, sickness, and death) and the transience of all worldly pleasure. He also saw that the wise monastic had found peace in spite of life's ills.

Determined to find a way to be free from these troubles, Prince Siddhartha renounced his crown and family, and embarked on his journey to seek the truth. After years of cultivation, he attained supreme enlightenment and was thence known as Sakyamuni (meaning "sage of the Sakya clan") Buddha. Out of endless compassion, Sakyamuni Buddha shared his teachings so that others could also discover the Middle Path to end all suffering.

“Three Acts of Goodness” Class Teaches Cub Scouts Basic Buddhist Principles



New York Fo Guang Boy and Girl Scouts participating in the “Three Acts of Goodness” Class

On the evening of November 12th, 33 New York Fo Guang Boy and Girl Scouts joined the “Three Acts of Goodness” class on the third floor of the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple. Jenny Chen, President of the New York Chapter of Buddha’s Light International Association, taught the “Three Acts of Goodness” course to the Scouts.

While discussing karma and fruit in Buddhism, Jenny Chen presented an apple to allow the children to discuss how karma is needed for an apple seed to turn into the apple in her hand. The course was designed with many examples for children to fully understand the basic Buddhist theory of dependent origination, which is the understanding that everything that exists is conditioned – or dependent on something else. The course also featured a video on how to change bad karma into good deeds, which highlighted to the scouts how to change their thoughts, change their karmic conditions, and do more good deeds to turn adversity into prosperity in their own life.



“Three Acts of Goodness” Class



Girl Scouts Learning to Make Clay Pumpkins and Doughnuts

After the course was completed, the Cub Scouts participated in group activities. The Girl Scouts were led by Anna Zhuang, leader of the Girl Scouts, to make golden autumn clay pumpkins and delicious clay doughnuts. The younger Boy Scouts were led by Wang Ronghui and Warren, leader of the Boy Scouts, to learn symbols and sign language, while the older Boy Scouts were led by Coach Norman to learn how to safely use knives. Participating in Scouts not only allows children to make new friends, but also spread the seeds of good deeds, good words, and good intentions. It creates a warm, harmonious, and positive group environment for the children to grow.



Boy Scouts Learning Sign Language

Fo Guang Cub Scouts Take Care of the Earth with a Local Park Clean up



Fo Guang Cub Scouts preparing for the park clean up at Murray Hill Playground

On the morning of November 6th, the New York Fo Guang Cub Scouts organized a park clean up at Murray Hill Playground, located one block from Fo Guang Shan New York Temple. Over 50 people, including Scouts and their parents, gathered in the parking lot of the temple to recite the Cub Scout Oath and Promise. The clean up began on the streets outside the temple and continued to Murray Hill Playground. The children used rakes, shovels, brooms, and dustpans to collect litter and leaves. After 2 ½ hours of hard work and over 50 garbage bags collected, the park clean up was a success. Many residents and parkgoers expressed their gratitude towards the Scouts for their efforts.



Laba Porridge Warms the Hearts of the Community



Abbess Ven Chueh Lin, along with the New York Temple Venerables, blessed the Laba porridge

On December 29th, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple celebrated the Laba Festival by preparing over 2,000 bowls of Laba Porridge to give out to the community. The Laba Festival (or the Dharma Treasure Festival), which falls on the eighth day of the twelfth month in the Chinese calendar, celebrates the enlightenment day of the Buddha. Laba Porridge, also called Eight Treasure Congee, is a Chinese ceremonial dish eaten on the day of the Laba Festival. Abbess Chueh Lin hopes the Laba porridge will fill everyone with peace and joy, and commemorate the Buddha's enlightenment.



Distributing Laba Porridge to the Nan Shan Senior Center



Ven Chueh Rang delivers Laba Porridge to 96-year old Professor Wang



Flushing Chinese Business Assn. receives Laba Porridge from Ven Zhi Qun

Giving Back to the Community with Thanksgiving Gift Baskets



Venerable You Lin and Venerable Miao Chu delivered a Thanksgiving gift basket to the NYPD's 14th Precinct in Manhattan. On November 18th, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple wrapped and delivered handmade Thanksgiving gift baskets to the neighboring businesses, NYPD precincts, and FDNY firehouse of our Flushing branch and future Manhattan Cultural Center. To show our appreciation and spread holiday cheer, Venerable You Lin, Venerable Miao Chu, and Angelina Sun of the Fo Guang Shan New York Localization Team delivered gift baskets to Flushing's 109th Precinct and FDNY Engine 275 Firehouse, and Manhattan's 14th Precinct, Ramada Hotel, and Vanilla Gorilla Cafe. Fo Guang Shan New York Temple hopes to continue giving back to the community and strengthening our partnerships with neighborhood leaders.



Venerable You Lin and Angelina Sun of the NY Localization Team presented a gift basket to officers of the 109th Precinct



Fo Guang Scouts Thanksgiving Appreciation Dinner

Fo Guang Scouts Show Their Gratitude with a Homemade Thanksgiving Dinner

To show their appreciation, the Fo Guang Girl Scouts hosted their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Fo Guang Shan New York Temple on November 20th and invited Abbess Chueh Lin and Venerable You Lin to attend. The Girl Scouts, Scout Leaders, and their parents gathered at the temple in the afternoon for a Thanksgiving cooking class.

Over one week before the dinner, the Scouts began their planning and preparations. Under the leadership of Scout Captains Kirstie Qian, Kylie Wong, and Kelly Tching, the Girl Scouts were divided into five teams. One team randomly drew a letter from the alphabet to determine the first letter of the main dish and dessert to be prepared. The Scouts also decorated the dining hall and each team created displays and ingredient cards for every dish presented.

The Girl Scouts worked closely together to cook each dish. Before the dinner began, a member from each team introduced and explained the process and meaning behind their dishes. Abbess Chueh Lin thanked the Scouts for their hard work and explained that being grateful toward one another is the true meaning of Buddhism and Thanksgiving.



Fo Guang Scouts working hard to prepare for Thanksgiving dinner



Fo Guang Scouts join for a Thanksgiving celebration

Bringing the Buddha's Light to Children During the Holiday Season



Fo Guang Shan New York Temple partnered with PS22Q to host the "Children Helping Children: Light Up the Community" Toy Drive. During the month of December, Fo Guang Shan New York Temple collected and distributed over 1,000 toys to spread holiday cheer to children in need. The toys were donated by the community to the temple's "Children Helping Children: Light Up the Community" Toy Drive, which was held in collaboration with PS 22Q and the office of NYC Councilwoman Sandra Ung.

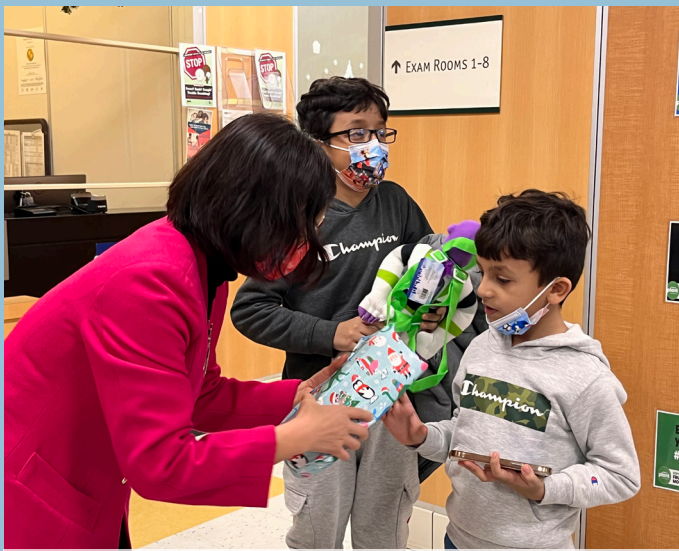


Venerable You Lin, Venerable Chueh Rang, and BLIA Volunteers delivered toys to New York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital

Led by Abbess Venerable Chueh Lin, Venerable You Lin, and Emily Wang, Principal of the Fo Guang Chinese School, Fo Guang volunteers delivered toys to children at NYC Health + Hospital/Queens in Jamaica, New York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital in Flushing, and St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Bayside. Toys were also delivered to the office of NYS Senator John Liu, who distributed them to military families at Fort Totten. Abbess Chueh Lin thanked all those who donated toys to the holiday toy drive. During this season of giving, children in need were able to feel warmth and love from the community.



Venerable You Lin gifts a present to a baby and her mother



BLIA Volunteer gives out toys to two brothers



Venerable You Lin offers a toy to a child at NYC Health+Hospital



Venerable You Lin, Venerable Chueh Rang, and BLIA Volunteers drop off 100 toys to Senator John Liu's office



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Fo Guang Shan New York Temple



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