



# 佛光世紀

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佛光

Buddha's Light Monthly New York



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佛光菜根譚



有才不足傲，有德才可貴  
有財不足恃，有功才可敬

——星雲大師《佛光菜根譚》

Don't be proud of your talent: virtue is true worth.  
Don't be proud of your money: achievement is true worth.

- Humble Table, Wise Fare  
by Venerable Master Hsing Yun

## Welcome to the 12th 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 and the local community.

We organized numerous camps for youths, participated in global meetings such as COP28; all with the goal of contributing to a better world.



## BLIA in the Community



**President:** Jenny Chen

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Frank Yao

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# IBPS New York Chinese School Hosts Flea Market for Food Bank Donation



- ▲ Many children from Chinese schools came to purchase items, and it also attracted quite a few passersby to come and treasure hunt.

On October 28th, around Thanksgiving, the IBPS New York Chinese School's entire community, including teachers, students, parents, and volunteers, organized a flea market to raise funds for the Food Bank For New York City. This event marked the third annual fundraiser for the food bank, with the school community actively participating. Children were excited to buy and sell items, like Ollie who bought a small pendant with her four quarters, and Hannah who sold a cartoon pendant, hoping for a dollar. It was a joy for the kids to engage in charity while enjoying the market.

# Fo Guang Scouts Clean City Park to Show Love for the Earth through Action



▲ Cub scouts were divided into five teams, each led by a leader, to tidy up the areas filled with autumn leaves.

On November 5th, the New York Fo Guang Cub Scouts organized a “Clean the Urban Forest Park” event, attracting over 60 people to help clean up. Arriving early, scouts, parents, and leaders worked together efficiently, collecting 124 bags of leaves in two hours, making the park clean again. This event helped the scouts grow in bravery, responsibility, dedication, and accountability, encouraging them to continue doing good and contribute positively to society.

# Fo Guang Young Adult and Scouts Blossom with Compassion to Relieve Hunger



▲ The cub scouts energetically encouraged people at various points to donate food to those in need during the cold winter.

As winter approached, the Buddha's Light International Association Young Adult Division Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, along with Fo Guang Cub Scout, hosted a "2023 Food Donation Drive" on November 11-12, setting up stalls at Key Food in Bay Side and Food Bazaar in Douglaston-Little Neck to collect food donations. Children and volunteers worked together, using creative posters with slogans like "Please Donate" and "Stop Hunger" to attract donations. The initiative was a success, gathering forty boxes of canned food and nearly \$500 in cash, showcasing the community's effort to combat hunger.

# New York's Centennial Hospital Invites Fo Guang Shan to Bless Hospice Memorial Service



▲ The unified prayer is conducted by four religious leaders together, creating a collective prayer that concludes the memorial service with a warm and inclusive note.

On November 15, Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York, hosts its annual hospice memorial service, bringing together over 50 participants including medical staff, spiritual counselors, and religious figures from Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Catholicism, Christianity, and Buddhism, along with the deceased's relatives and friends. This event highlights cultural integration and warmth. Venerable Youren from Fo Guang Shan New York Temple represents Buddhism and introduces Venerable Master Hsing Yun. Venerable Youren then recited the "Prayer for a Departed One and the Bereaved Family" in both Chinese and English, offering blessings and expressing compassion across cultures.

# Voelker Orth Museum Sharing Session: Interpreting the Sentiment of Gratitude



▲ Participants gather to share their views on gratitude.

The Voelker Orth Museum holds a “Coming Together, Giving Thanks” event on November 19, inviting diverse groups to join. The Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, represented by Frank Yao, Vice President of the Buddha’s Light International Association of New York, participates. Yao discusses gratitude through the lens of Humanistic Buddhism, as taught by Venerable Master Hsing Yun, emphasizing it as a practical spirituality. He stresses that gratitude extends beyond words, manifesting in actions and interactions, thereby becoming a positive, shared value.

# Elmhurst Hospital President Visits Fo Guang Shan New York Temple



▲ Visitors praise that the most exquisite vegetarian cuisine in New York City is found at the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple!

Dr. Helen Arteaga, President of Elmhurst Hospital, and her team visit the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple on November 21st for Zen meditation and a vegetarian lunch. The visit, which includes notable figures from the hospital's food management group, underscores the hospital's commitment to a vegetarian menu, aligning with the Vege Plan A promoted by the Buddha's Light International Association. Abbess Venerable Chueh Lin provides an exquisite meal and shares insights into Buddhist culinary principles, concluding the visit with gifts for the guests, ensuring a fulfilling experience for all.

# The New York State Government Establishes Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development Services, Fo Guang Shan Represents Buddhism



▲ New York Governor Kathy Hochul (first from the left) interacts with Jenny Chen and Venerable Youlin.

The “New York State Interfaith and Non-Profit Development Services” conference takes place on November 28th, with representatives from the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, including Venerable Youlin, Venerable Youren, and Jenny Chen, attending in Albany. Governor Kathy Hochul is announcing the creation of the New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development Services to enhance interfaith relations. Nearly 130 religious leaders are witnessing this event. Hochul welcomes the Buddhist community’s first-time participation, emphasizing the event as a beginning for ongoing interfaith cooperation in New York State.

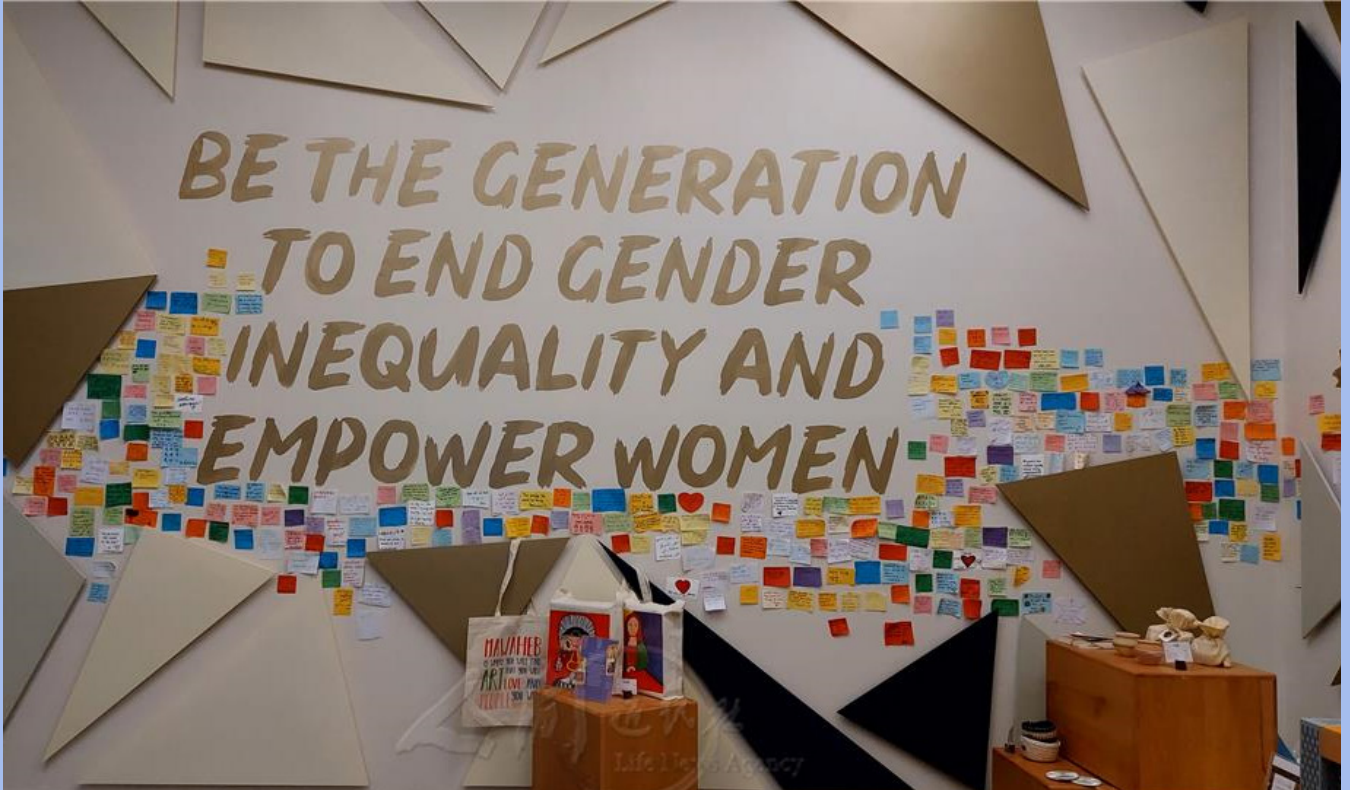
# Venerable Jue Juh Gives the Lecture: “Master Hsing Yun’s 300-Year Bodhisattva Vow in Life”



▲ Venerable Jue Juh delivers an inspiring 90-minute talk, highlighting Venerable Master Hsing Yun’s lifelong dedication to altruism and his ceaseless efforts to benefit others.

Venerable Jue Juh, Abbess of the Fo Guang Shan Founding Master’s Office, delivers a lecture on “Master Hsing Yun’s 300-Year Bodhisattva Vow in Life” at the New York Temple on December 2nd, with over 180 followers attending both online and offline. Serving alongside Master Hsing Yun for more than two decades, she shares insights into the importance of living a diligent life filled with Buddhist teachings and daily practice. Venerable Jue Juh encourages attendees to view the New York Temple as a spiritual home, to engage in communal practices, and to maintain a committed mindset for progress on the Buddhist path.

# Master Hsing Yun's View on Equality Resonates with COP28 Women's Pavilion



▲ People from all walks of life leave messages on the wall calling for gender equality.

The theme for December 3rd at UNFCCC-COP28 is “Health/Relief, Recovery, and Peace,” introducing a unique focus for the conference. The Women’s Pavilion exhibition underscores the vital role of women, aligning with the Buddha’s Light International Association’s efforts under Venerable Master Hsing Yun’s leadership. Venerable Master Hsing Yun champions equality, emphasizing empathy and mutual respect over coercion. For years, bhikkhunis from BLIA have led key tasks, advancing global projects and sustainability.

# COP28 Introduces Faith Pavilion, BLIA Seeks Buddhist Dialogue



▲ Venerable Youlin from the Buddha's Light International Association and Bishop Paul-Martinelli of the Southern Arabian Apostolic Vicariate take a commemorative photo together,

At COP28, the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference is introducing a Faith Pavilion for the first time to engage faith communities. On December 4th, a discussion titled “Faith for the Earth: Interfaith Perspectives on Climate Action” is taking place, examining religions’ roles in addressing climate change and promoting joint environmental and sustainable efforts. Venerable Youlin, Director of the Buddha’s Light International Association’s United Nations Office, suggests that Buddhism can collaborate with other religions for Earth’s salvation and calls for the future inclusion of Buddhist voices in discussions on climate action, gender equality, and education. This session is encouraging collaboration and collective action among various faiths to confront climate challenges.

# COP28's Youth, Children, Education & Skills theme aligns with BLIA Values



▲ Venerable Jue Pei and Jue Cheng attend the COP28 youth, children, education & skills event.

At the COP28 United Nations Climate Summit held in Expo City Dubai, special events and meetings themed around “Youth, Children, Education & Skills” were organized. The Secretary-General of the Buddha’s Light International Association (BLIA) World Headquarters, Venerable Jue Pei, and the Deputy Secretary-General for Southeast Asia, Venerable Jue Cheng, attended on December 8th. Venerable Jue Pei stated that the day’s themes align well with BLIA’s founder, Venerable Master Hsing Yun’s emphasis on youth education and the concept of “environmental and spiritual preservation.” Master Hsing Yun values education for nurturing talents, leading BLIA to establish youth groups, scout troops, and Buddhist reading clubs, encouraging children and youths to engage in environmental protection through actions like beach clean-ups, tree planting, and vegetarianism.

# Inspiring Spiritual Exploration and Wisdom: “Learn and Win in Buddhism Camp”



▲ The meditation sessions offer participants moments of tranquility, allowing participants to deeply experience inner peace and serenity.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun of Fo Guang Shan said, “Buddhism needs youth, and youth need Buddhism more.” On December 17, 23 youths at the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple participate in a “Learn and Win in Buddhism Camp” for a spiritual journey, led by Abbess Venerable Chueh Lin. The camp aimed to meet the need for spiritual exploration in a fast-paced world, teaching Buddhist etiquette, religious thoughts, the Three Jewels, participating in reading clubs, English meditation, and dumpling-making. It aimed to introduce young people to Buddhism’s wisdom, encouraging them to live by positive habits and transform themselves.

# New York Fo Guang Members Practice “Three Acts of Goodness” by Collecting Toys for Children



▲ Fo Guang members visit pediatric clinics and children’s wards to distribute toys one by one.

The Fo Guang Shan New York Temple is actively collecting toys at five different locations in the community, having gathered over 500 toys with the support of kind-hearted individuals for nearly a month. On December 19, Venerable Chueh Lin, Abbess of the Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, along with others, represents the temple in delivering gifts to three hospitals, including NYC Health + Hospitals, St. Mary Kids Hospital, and New York Presbyterian Queens. This ongoing toy collection effort demonstrates care for children in three Queens hospitals and provides support to students from disadvantaged families in 22 public elementary schools. The charming toys are set to bring smiles to the children’s faces.

# New York's "Children's Kung Fu Winter Camp" Cultivates Endurance



▲ Hsu emphasized that Kung Fu training is not only for self-defense but also for cultivating good character and martial virtues.

The Fo Guang Shan New York Temple hosted its inaugural "Children's Kung Fu Winter Camp" from December 27-29, with instructor Happy Hsu teaching traditional Shaolin Kung Fu to over 30 students aged 5 to 12. Hsu emphasized that Kung Fu training is not only for self-defense but also for cultivating good character and martial virtues, such as helping others and respecting parents and teachers. Additionally, Venerable Neng Xian led a Buddhist course on etiquette, meditation, and teachings, aiming to instill respect and the "Three Acts of Goodness" in the youth.



# 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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