

華因

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華嚴經法要新解

天因法師

普賢三昧品第三 (卷七)

這一品經只佔了第七卷的一半，與下一品----「世界成就品」的內容可以說是承接的連貫性的，兩品經文合併才是整整的第七卷。可以了解，這兩品經的內容是講述經由普賢菩薩首先進入三昧，引申到要承辦法法其實是出了定之後的事，又經由大眾讚請的內容中，引申出「世界成就品」甚至再往後的「華藏世界品」及「毘盧遮那品」等等，其境界內容一一拱托出來。

在這一期「因華」中，我們先來了解普賢菩薩出入三昧的情況。

普賢菩薩的定位

從華嚴經中，得知「華嚴三聖」就是毗盧遮那佛、大智文殊師利菩薩及大行普賢菩薩。簡單說，毗盧遮那佛是華嚴宗的本尊，文殊及普賢是本尊的脇士，文殊代表智慧是妙覺菩薩，而普賢代表修行是等覺菩薩，由於文殊菩薩的智慧是不能顯現於肉眼，必須要透過實踐才能把智慧障顯無違，然而這些實踐就是普賢菩薩於菩薩因地上所修行的法門。所以華嚴經一開始是普賢菩薩代表如來現身為大眾說出這甚深微妙的大法。故此，普賢菩薩就是被認定了在華嚴學海中一個相當重要

的地位。

入定的條件

一位聖者要說法之前，必定有些動作的，經文首句這樣說 (P227L1)：「爾時，普賢菩薩摩訶薩於如來前，坐蓮華藏師子之座，承佛神力，入于三昧。」從上述的文意中，我們知道普賢菩薩要入三昧，而且是在如來之前入定，還有須要得到佛的加持能力才能圓滿入定。佛之所以要加持一位菩薩入定，當然這位菩薩本身也必須具備足夠的條件才是。經文很清楚的說出普賢菩薩入定的條件 (P228LL2)：「佛子！此是十方一切諸佛共加於汝，以毗盧遮那如來本願力故，亦以汝修一切諸佛行願力故。所謂：……」最主要的是普賢菩薩本身有修有願，憑這點可以感得一切諸佛的共同加持，也感得毗盧遮那如來本願的力量，成就於一身。因此可以成功圓滿地入定。

身口意三種淨業同時加持

如來與十方諸佛威神愉滿，大慈大悲，給予普賢菩薩身、口、意三種淨業同時加持，如下：

一、口業加持：經文 (P228LL4)：「彼諸如來同聲讚言：善哉！善哉！善男子！汝能入此一切諸佛毗





廬遮那如來藏身菩薩三昧。」所謂的口業加持，其實是十方如來共同親自來到普賢菩薩的面前，親口讚嘆普賢是可以進入三昧的定力，而且這個三昧名叫「如來藏身菩薩」，普賢菩薩是代表因，即是以種種萬行於因地上修行實踐，最後要證得「如來藏身菩薩」這個果位。

二、意業加持：經文(P229L5)「十方一切諸佛，即與普賢菩薩摩訶薩能入一切智性力智，與入法界無邊量智，……，與得一切佛音聲智。」十方一切諸佛總共給予普賢菩薩十種的加持，這裏我們必須要了解的是普賢菩薩雖為等覺位菩薩，但仍須要佛力加持才能進入三昧。

三、身業加持：經文(P230L3)「是時，十方諸佛，各舒右手，摩普賢菩薩頂。」如來以伸手為普賢菩薩於頭上灌頂表徵了身業加持，就此圓滿了三種淨業同時加持。

普賢菩薩從定中而出

菩薩入定中是不說法的，為了要為眾生說法，所以於定中享受法樂後必須要出定才開始說法，經文(P232L2)：「普賢菩薩從三昧起，諸菩薩眾獲如是益；如是，一切世界海，及彼世界海所有微塵，一一塵中，悉亦如是。」憑這幾句經文中，我們可以得悉普賢菩薩出定時，在會大眾全都獲得無量

法益，即使是虛空中少少一粒微塵也獲得法益，這是華嚴的境界及特色。

普賢菩薩接受讚請

菩薩出定後也不會馬上說法，因為法是甚深微妙，甚為難得，甚為稀有，不能隨便就說，也不容易取得，眾生要從恭敬中得。故此，沒有經過大眾致誠懇切的請求，沒有得到大眾生起對法的恭敬心、渴求心，是無緣得到真正大法，即使大法在眼前，也無法受用。經文中(P235L1)總共有八句偈頌都是諸菩薩承著佛的神力，讚美普賢菩薩。簡單的分兩部份：第一(P235L1)：「以諸佛法而出生，……法界微塵無不入。」大眾讚嘆普賢菩薩是一位有能力說法的人，因其具有因果深廣的德行。第二部(P236L1)：「入於法界一切塵，……，其音廣大靡不聞。」大眾繼續讚嘆普賢菩薩說法能普及大地所有眾生。

普賢說法的提示

在這品經文結束之前，最後其中有一句偈頌經由諸大菩薩的疑惑作出了下一品經文的提示，經文(P236LL4)：「國土云何得成立？諸佛云何而出現？及以一切眾生海？願隨其義如實說。」這幾句經文，不難看出往下的幾品，如：「世界成就品」、「華藏世界品」、「毘盧遮那品。」就是此等偈頌的答案。有待普賢菩薩一一道出，下期分解。☸





大方廣佛華嚴經卷第五十三，離世間品第三十八之一，第三問何等為菩薩摩訶薩行

華嚴經問答與內容

〈離世間品〉是《華嚴經》中的二千個修行法門，由普慧菩薩為當機眾代眾生向普賢菩薩發問，總共發出了二百個問題，而普賢菩薩於每個問題中說出了十個答案，即十個修行法門，故全品經一共有二千個法門，成為了「普慧二百問，普賢兩千酬」的佳話，給後人研讀華嚴經的一個重要指南。

第三問：何等為行？

經文(P150LL3)：佛子！菩薩摩訶薩有十種行。何等為十？所謂：

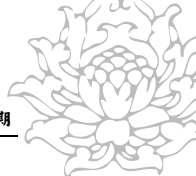
1. 一切眾生行，普令成熟故；
2. 一切求法行，咸悉修學故；
3. 一切善根行，悉使增長故；
4. 一切三昧行，一心不亂故；
5. 一切智慧行，無不了知故；
6. 一切神通行，變化自在故；
7. 一切修習行，無不能修故；
8. 一切佛刹行，皆悉莊嚴故；
9. 一切善友行，恭敬供養故；
10. 一切如來行，尊重承事故；

是為十。若諸菩薩安住此法，則得如來無上大智慧行。

釋文(V17P52LL5)：

十種行，這裏是指修大行，上期所提的是十種奇持想，然而「想」





都只是在心中想，是心所的作用，沒有作任何實際行動，但這裏的「行」，泛指「行」通身、口、意三業；倘若只有想而不實踐、不實行，也

是無法承辦一切善業。上列經文的十種行，可以分成五對作了解，如下表：

第~對	第~句經文	釋意
一	1,2	下化眾生，上求佛道，圓滿世出世法
二	3,4	止惡進善，心定不亂，成就三昧
三	5,6	妙止深觀，智慧通達，神通顯現，自在自如
四	7,8	修因嚴刹，因地修行圓滿，自是能莊嚴佛刹
五	9,10	敬重朋友，奉事師長，人本如是，成佛之因 <small>◎</small>

更正啓事：

第4期之專題討題標題應是「如來現相品第二」，特此更正。

因華求才

「因華」徵求義務工作人員，凡有興趣於中、英文撰稿、翻譯、資料搜集等工作，請與本刊編輯部聯絡。

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請註明因華義工。





逆境轉向

天寧

有一次，佛陀和弟子們在炎熱的天氣下，經過樹林而停下來休息，佛陀叫阿難回頭到剛才大家涉水而過的溪流去取水解渴，一次、二次，阿難都空手而回，原因是溪水被路過的人馬踐踏之後，溪水弄髒了，不能飲用。阿難建議佛陀另覓水源，但佛陀堅持要阿難再去原溪取水，阿難無奈，只好重返那遭受染污的溪流，豈料溪流已回復清澈，純淨如昔，因為泥沙已經沖走或沉澱了。阿難見了，心有所悟，了知世間事物沒有永遠的，隨著因緣就會有所改變。

我們在人生的旅途上難免會遇到順、逆的兩種情形，順境是快樂的，逆境是痛苦的；在這兩種情形下，我們便應該將佛法用在生活上。在順境中不忘行善積福，隨份隨力地幫助他人，廣行十善，同時要知道轉化自己的煩惱，思惟無常真諦，明瞭快樂不是恆久的，它很快就會過去。

在逆境中的時候，提醒自己這苦也是無常的，也會過去的。同時可以向三寶祈求加被、發願；在任

何情況之下，快樂與痛苦，它們的本質都是無常的，都會轉變的。

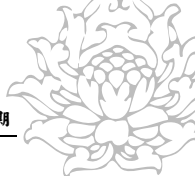
一切有為法，如夢幻泡影，如露亦如電，應作如是觀。

這是在《金剛經》非常有名的中四句偈，它強而有力的提醒我們，不要去想現在擁有什麼，因為總有一天這些都是會失去的；也不要想失去什麼，因為我們本來就不可能擁有些甚麼。就像夢境，夢中快樂極了，可是醒來後，仍是生活在現實的世界中，仍要面對艱苦的生活。

人生的一切現象，就像夢幻般不真實，像水中的泡沫，浮上水面就消失了，又像清晨的露珠、天空的閃電，現在看到了，一下子就消失了，何曾有永恆呢？

因此，我們對於週遭的事物都不要過於執著，應隨著世間不同的因緣，以積極努力的態度，坦然面對世間的悲歡離合、人情冷暖，成敗得失。





本社2009年獎學金 評審委員第一次會議

美國華嚴蓮社舉辦第二屆獎學金計劃，於5月3日，下午二時舉行第一次評審委員會議，出席者有本社住持天因法師，天融法師、天寧法師；而評審委員會代表有：胡心圓、蔡心如、姜悟定、祿心慈、胡萍、林珮玉、李忠霖等。

會議開始住持天因法師先為大家介紹美國華嚴蓮社秉承台北華嚴蓮社，一貫教學及作育英才的精神而舉辦的獎學金活動今年已經第二屆。今年的高中學校亦從去年的一間增至四間，獎學金

名額亦由原來的十名增至二十名，希望能使更多學生受惠。

由於去年的經驗，因此今年便組成了評審委員會，來協助輪選的工作。目的希望能夠將活動辦得更完善。會議中評審委員即時制定了評審標準、評審進度表，評審方法等等。

出席的委員對於能參加此富有意義的評審工作，均非常認真及投入；會議在一片熱烈的討論中，於四時結束。☸





璀璨四月 慶事雲集

文：會極法師

四月五日是本年度清明法會的圓滿日，同時也舉行「成一樓」的灑淨和剪綵啟用儀式，進而完成財團法人美國華嚴蓮社新舊任董事長的交接與新任董事長賢度法師的就職典禮，一時真可以說是盛會雲集。

「成一樓」原是蓮社最初駐美所興建的佛堂，今日重新整修完工，不論從內部的功能規劃到外觀的修飾都為之煥然一新。為感念成公導師當年在美國弘法的艱辛，故而將這棟樓命名為「成一樓」，以讓後人能夠記取前賢為法奉獻奮鬥的精神。

在多位貴賓一同剪綵之後，成公導師與賢度法師一起揭下覆在匾上的紅布，當露出「成一樓」三個字的剎那，全場頓時響起一陣歡呼，如雷的掌聲隨之而起，導師的臉上綻放出童顏般的笑容，頻頻揮手向大家致意。

緊接著進入大殿進行財團法人美國華嚴蓮社新舊任董事長的交接與新任董事長賢度法師的就職典禮。

美國加州聖荷西市華嚴佛教會成立於1984年7月。1991年在信徒的支持下，更於米爾必達市購買土地，興建佛堂，命名為華嚴蓮社。向州政府正式登記了宗教團體，由成公導師擔任董事長職務，到現在已經整整25年的時間了，今日導師功成身退，將交由新任董事長繼續推動弘法、教育、慈善等工作。與會觀禮的信眾近五百人數，參加的貴賓有MILPITAS副市長PETE MCHUGH、駐舊金山台北經濟文化辦事處處長陳經銓、金山灣區華僑文教中心主任黃公弼、居士代表張志禹、胡憲文、楊良淵、周永明、陳潤吾、德州護法代表雷余觀翔和黃徐秋香等人，現場花團錦簇、嘉賓雲集。





在完成所有儀式之後，成公導師首先致詞說明他選擇賢度法師為繼任董事長的理由，因為她不但擁有博士的高學歷，而且具有高度的領導能力，佛學專精，著作豐富，曾於世界各地弘揚華嚴不遺餘力，堪稱是他的得意弟子，他能夠放心的把這個重擔交給她，也希望大家本著護持他的心意繼續護持賢度法師，更希望大家不要忘記勤修彌勒法門，求生兜率淨土。

在致詞的來賓中，MILPITAS 副市長PETE MCHUGH是一位具有幽默感的西方紳士，他為能參加這個盛典而感到榮幸，並且代表MILPITAS的居民感謝蓮社一直以來為社區所做的服務和傳播佛陀的教育，藉著蓮社的幫助，有利於本地的社會成長，所以代表他們向成一長老說聲「謝謝」！

他也是首次參加佛教的灑淨儀式，整個過程令他感到畢生難忘。巧的是，昨晚他居然找到蓮社於1993年送給他的一枚華嚴徽章，當時他是擔任市長，為了再參加蓮社今日的盛會，竟然在十五年後能又找到它，而將它別在襟上再度前來參加典禮，讓他直呼是不可思議！

最後，新任董事長賢度法師則以中英文雙語向大家致答謝詞，除了感謝其恩師二十三年來不斷的提攜與苦心的栽培之外，更立志必遵循祖師創社的宗旨，把弘法工作做得更符合現代社會民眾的需求，以誠懇的態度服務廣大的信眾，並加強國內外推廣華嚴的教學，將教育工作重心定位在培養佛教後繼人才為主，同時也不要忘記積極關懷弱勢、照顧貧病等，以做為蓮社首要推動的社務工作。

在禮成時，蓮社備有精美的幸運福袋分贈給現場的來賓信眾們，這個福袋又是經過連日供佛後，由成公導師真誠的逐一念佛加持過的，因此意義非凡，人人緊握在手裡，顯得格外珍貴，對於參加這場盛會，個個都覺得法喜充滿。☸



本市副市長監交印信





蓮清 社明 盛法 事會

一年一度的超薦佛事終於開始，為主持本社本年度盛會，蓮社董事長成公導師與副董事長賢度法師和台北蓮社當家天蓮法師一起在三月廿七日下午四時搭機抵達三藩市，由本社住持天因法師和當家天融法師率多位護法信眾前往機場迎接。雖然旅程勞頓，但高齡九十六的導師卻依然神采奕奕，絲毫不顯疲態，也著實讓大家心裡都讚佩不已，畢竟能躬逢導師駕臨美國的機會是非常難得的。

本年度清明超薦法會在三月廿九日早上九時開經，禮誦《大方廣佛華嚴經》第一卷至第十九卷，每日的第二支香並分別由多位法師輪流開示華嚴經義，以方便引導參加的信眾們能夠隨文入觀，解甚深義。第一天的開示由賢度法師主講，她生動的演說配合多媒體的引介，巧妙的由現階段的

世界經濟局勢說起，帶入了華嚴經十迴向法門的修行，適時的提供了一個安頓人心的方法，讓大家在動盪的經濟憂慮當中有了心靈的依靠。

法會一連八天，其間一併舉行成一樓的啟用儀式，和新舊任董事長的交接典禮。4月5日下午二時起再禮請賢度法師主法三時繫念佛事一堂，為功德堂上往生者說法超薦，令其求生淨土，安詳自在，佛國菩提早圓。佛事總歷時五個小時方圓滿功德，為本年度的清明法會劃下完美的句點。



董事長賢度法師領眾共修



我今灌沐諸如來 淨智壯嚴功德海 五濁衆生離塵垢 同証如來淨法身

一年一度的浴佛法會在四月廿六日隆重的舉行，與會的信眾非常踴躍。金色的悉達多太子像佇立在花海當中，顯得格外莊嚴。法會八點開始，虔誦《普賢行願品》一卷，第二支香拜願祈福，第三支香誦完〈華嚴發願文〉後，便開始進行浴佛儀式。首先由住持天因法師虔敬浴佛後，大眾依序上前浴佛，每人並恭請一瓶浴佛水回家與家人共享。

浴佛象徵洗除我們的身心塵垢，沒有煩惱障礙，因此而獲得佛光加被。午供後，蓮社備有大喜糕在住持法師的祝福下，與大眾一同分享佛陀誕生的喜悅，法會進行得圓滿而愉快，住持法師更利用午齋時間開示浴佛的意義，使大家隨著觀想佛陀誕生的盛況，莫不感到法喜充滿，於結齋聲中圓滿了一天的功德。



住持法師領眾浴佛



浴佛亭





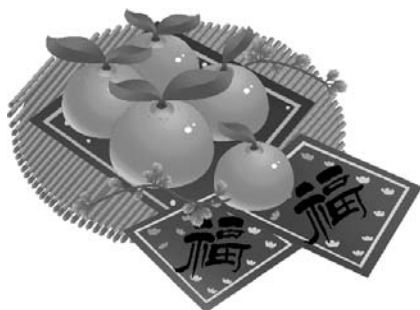
觀音菩薩誕辰日 壽桃喜糕與眾結緣

農曆二月十九日觀音菩薩誕辰，也是智光老和尚圓寂四十五周年紀念日，巧的是日期正逢蓮社每週日的例行共修日，所以前來參加禮佛的信眾高達二百多位。早上八點開始第一支香讚頌觀音菩薩並拜願，第二支香虔誦普門品一卷、大悲咒廿一遍，第三支香則由住持天因以投影介紹觀音菩薩

的威德和大悲咒文的意義，講解中配合莊嚴的佛菩薩畫像，令大眾於聽聞中也同時生起讚嘆崇慕之心。午供時，為追思智光老和尚的賢德，如法做祖師供聊表敬意。法會圓滿後，蓮社準備了一個大喜糕，邀大家一起為觀音菩薩慶生，並分送壽桃與大眾結緣，個個無不法喜充滿。☺

新春圓滿 • 供佛齋天 壇場莊嚴 • 功德殊勝

二月一日是新春法會的圓滿日，本社進行供佛齋天之儀，法會當中敬設華嚴大供十五席，分佈壇場四週，中央二十四席則為諸天神眾，每席均敬備香、花、燈燭、鮮果、素菜、茶食、甜品，莊嚴非凡。參加齋天的信眾大清早便陸續進入會場禮敬一番。法會自九時開始，先灑淨壇場，繼而每席三請諸天光降道場，納受供養，信眾們紛紛默禱祈願，十分真誠。☺





送舊迎新喜滿堂 虔誠禮敬三千佛

本社自今年起擴大舉行禮拜三千佛懺，從2009年1月25日起一連進行八天，每天早上八點開始到午供圓滿結束，共進行五支香。大年初一為了迎接新春，住持天因法師及常住法師們發放紅包給前來禮佛的信眾，祝賀大家吉祥如意，紅包內裝有一小包食米及茶葉，並有一個糖菓及錢幣，寓意人

人有飲有食，來年豐衣足食；另於餐桌上一人一個橙桔，寓意諸事大吉大利。法會中另有七天期的吉祥燈可供信眾祈福供養，登記的人數非常熱烈。

禮懺後，進行一堂延生普佛，先誦藥師經一卷，後拜願及延生迴向，其間則由住持天因法師開示藥師法門。圓滿日時以齋天功德圓滿新春法會，在大眾虔誠歡喜下迴向在新的一年裡，人人福慧增上，家庭與事業都美滿和諧，平安喜樂無窮。



法師派發新春紅包



過堂用齋



住持天因法師點燈祈福





佛陀成道 臘八粥供眾 效法精進 修學菩薩行



一月四日本社舉行佛陀成道紀念日，前來參加的信眾非常踴躍。

早上八點開始第一支香禮懺八十八佛和拜願，第二支香誦《普賢行願品》一卷，第三支香則由住持天因開市示佛陀成道的故事，將佛陀的一生…自出生到思惟生命的意義以致出家修行的艱辛過程，終於在六年苦行後悟道、成道，又轉法輪等等…，一一製成投影片，圖文並茂的介紹給大家，讓大家都聽得津津有味。

第四支香午供，為各方齋主祈福迴向。圓滿後，大家一起享用臘八粥，又香又濃的米粥加入十幾種配料，熬煮成可口的粥品，讓許多人都覺得意猶未盡，住持天因要大家記取在佛陀成道日吃粥的意思，是要效法佛陀當時受牧羊女供養乳糜後精進修道、成道的榜樣，我們吃了粥以後，也要努力精進自己的道業才是。在一片祥和的氣氛中，結束一日的紀念儀式，信眾們都甚為法喜。





賢度法師
佛學講座
十迴向法
開示大眾

賢度法師於3/30、4/1、4/4晚上七點至九點的時段開示〈華嚴經十迴向法門〉，預先登記聽講的信眾非常踴躍，對於應如何迴向所做的功德才能得到大果報都非常感興趣。在講經當中，賢度法師引用《華嚴經疏鈔》的精闢見解開示大眾，末後並隨機解答信眾所提出的疑慮，使得現場討論的氣

氛非常熱絡。由此經過連續三堂課的熏習，不但讓大家產生了濃厚的學習欲，對每日功德必做的迴向方法有了正確的認識，也學習到應如何如法的興迴向意，才不致錯用心，因此都甚覺受益不少，對於賢度法師久久才來美國說法一次的機會也甚表珍惜，紛紛在會後向她表達感恩之情。



供養法師



把握當下，拍照留念





歲末圍爐 身處異國

春意盎然 家鄉情濃

本社在2009年1月24日農曆年廿九日，中午舉行年終圍爐餐會，邀請多位長期護持蓮社法務的義工們一起吃團圓飯，住持天因法師並藉此機會感謝他們的辛勞，也勉勵他們繼續為成就佛道廣結善緣。來參加的義工成員有姜汝勤、辛秀琦、孫木通、孫義倫、賀玉章、鄭惠貞、李世雄、鄭彩琴、姜若瑩、林文靜、司徒玉蘭、利絲、江明潔等人，住持法師先跟大家拜過早年後，接著要與會者輪

流說一句吉祥話來向大家祝賀新年，現場充滿喜氣，十分熱鬧，雖然是身處異國，但是家鄉濃情依舊紛揚，更顯得新春的氣息盎然，令人溫馨異常。



關懷慰問 溫馨叮嚀

本社義工甘繼偉(悟大)居士因為腳部有恙，日前接受手術治療，四月廿六日下午四時許住持天因法師便帶領蓮社法師：天融、天寧與會極、和居士：心慈、利絲、彩琴和溫彬僖夫婦等多人，一同前往關懷探視。甘居士在蓮社擔任義工服務多年，此次因左膝蓋動手術，剛剛返家休養，蓮社為表示關懷，特別前往慰問，並在她家佛前為其禮誦一部《藥師經》迴向，

希望她早日康復，諸事吉祥，家庭美滿和樂。甘繼偉和她夫婿、女兒也甚表感恩之意，期待復原後早日再回到蓮社共修，繼續培福，住持天因法師甚表歡迎之意，勸慰她以身體為重，一行人在互勉中道別，留下溫馨的叮嚀依然在空氣中迴盪不已。





作品展現 才藝插花 新春團拜 幸福喜悅

二月廿二日是插花班今年首次的上課日，全體學員齊聚一堂先和老師互相拜年，恭賀新春如意之後，便開始今年的花藝研習課程，個個喜上眉梢，興緻勃勃的沉浸在一片花海中。

蓮社自開辦插花班以來，一直不斷的有新成員加入，大家也培養了學習的默契，不僅怡情養性，增加對花藝的鑑賞力，而且能夠藉以美化家庭，呈現居家優雅的

風格，還可以用來莊嚴佛堂，供養諸佛菩薩，真可謂是一舉數得。

在老師的指導下完成了今年第一件作品之後，學員們準備了豐富的甜點糕餅，和老師一起歡聚新春，並互相預祝在新的一年裡，彼此都有更好的進步。在邀請蓮社住持天因和當家天融見證她們的喜悅之後，全體一起合照，記錄了09年的首次作品展和無限的幸福笑容。





佛學講座 會極法師

金剛經啓示 詮斷疑生信

本社每週六晚上開辦的佛學班二零零九年於二月七日起正式開始授課，擔任第一期課程的主講人是來自台灣的會極法師，其講題是「《金剛經》的啟示」，講課時間自二月七日起至五月十六日止計十二堂課。

會極法師引用明朝高僧憨山大師所註《金剛決疑》為本，再運用譬喻的解說，期使大眾能迅速悟入大乘的津要。課程內容大綱為：

- 一、講解修行大乘佛法應有的認知。
- 二、說明禪宗明心見性與金剛般若的關係。
- 三、經題、譯者和註解者的介紹。
- 四、般若波羅蜜與五度修行的解析。
- 五、從自身心中與佛法對應的探討。
- 六、貫穿與華嚴經大意的連繫。

由於眾生的輪迴是因為迷執世間相為始，對於自心的苦樂來源並沒有初步的認識，因此法師以《金剛經》的經文逐漸破除眾生迷執的疑惑，讓大家了解自身本具的清淨佛性與如來法身原無二致，令大家對修行能生起信心，同時也有助於大家通曉佛學大意，增加閱讀佛典的能力，為本期的佛學課程留下難忘的一頁。☸





義診心得

吳筑竹

回想自己與蓮社的結緣已經六年了，而當蓮社的義診醫師，今年正是第三個年頭。從生疏到熱絡，現在蓮社上上下下，自住持師父到每位義工師兄、師姐們，彼此的感覺就好像一家人一樣的親切。


雖然平時大家各忙各的，我也只是一個月才與大家見面一次，但那份熟稔感是不可抹滅的，畢竟大家在蓮社結緣，各有不同因緣而相聚，所以就格外的珍惜，

當然做義診醫師這三年的時間裡，所見到的信徒們是來來去去，或長或短的相聚，也道盡了“緣”這個字，是隨著生滅和合的一種現象。

曾聽說過：人要行善積德，並非想做善事就有機會可以做的，有些人想行善，如果沒有福報的話，都還找不到機會能夠替自己種福田哩！因此在我心裡一直謹記這句話。所以當聽到師父請我

做義診醫師時，當下就二話不說，立刻答應，感恩再感恩能夠得到這個機會。因為師父們給我一個種福田的機會，即便只有短短兩個小時的時間，我仍然滿懷歡喜心的盡力去做。

雖然一個月一次的義診，並不能將一些信徒長久以來的病痛一次解決，但能夠給予她們身心上的舒緩和慰藉，也算是有相當的輔助治療效果。尤其每當看到按月定期等待義診的老人家時，雖然跟她是雞同鴨講的溝通(因為她說廣東話，我聽不懂。)但看她努力的點頭或搖頭的回應我，與受針灸治療時那種開心的神情，也讓我不由得感到很安慰。

希望能夠在蓮社這個大家庭裡面，繼續營造幸福美滿的義診生活，能夠解決眾生的病苦，無異是正行菩薩道了，這也是令我培福的機會，我會更加珍惜的！





佛學常識 知多少？

華嚴三聖

徵。

華嚴三聖即《華嚴經》所指華藏世界的三位聖者。

(一) 毘盧遮那佛：梵名 VAIROCANA。又稱盧舍那佛；漢譯為大日如來。為佛之報身或法身。毘盧遮那是日，意譯遍一切處，代表光明遍照的意思。指佛於身智，以種種光明照眾生。也象徵佛的智慧廣大無邊。

(二) 文殊師利菩薩：梵名 MANJUSRI。文殊師利意譯為妙德。以大智著稱，以其明見佛性，具足法身、般若、解脫三德，不可思議，故稱妙德。大乘菩薩，以文殊為智慧第一，故有佛母之稱。

(三) 普賢菩薩：梵名 SAMANTABHADRA。「普」，即願行遍一切處；「賢」，即妙善之義。主一切諸佛之理德，定德，行德，與文殊之智德，證德相對。普賢菩薩是大乘佛教之行願的象

毘盧遮那佛理智完備，位於中間；文殊菩薩主"智慧"，駕獅子位於毘盧遮那佛的左邊；普賢菩薩主"理"，乘六牙白象位於毘盧遮那佛的右邊。

在中國，文殊菩薩及普賢菩薩皆是四大菩薩（觀音、文殊、地藏、普賢）之一，是釋迦如來的脅士。若以這位二脅士代表法，文殊師利顯示智、慧、證，普賢顯示理、定、行，來說明本尊如來理智、定慧、行證之完備圓滿。文殊、普賢共為一切菩薩之上首，常常幫助宣揚如來之法來化導攝益。

華嚴經中以佛果為不可說，故以文殊、普賢二菩薩為說主，其中以能信之深心為文殊，所信之法界為普賢。文殊勸修，成法身之本智；普賢大行，成差別智之行德。故以文殊、普賢配合毘盧遮那佛，共為華嚴三聖。⁸³³





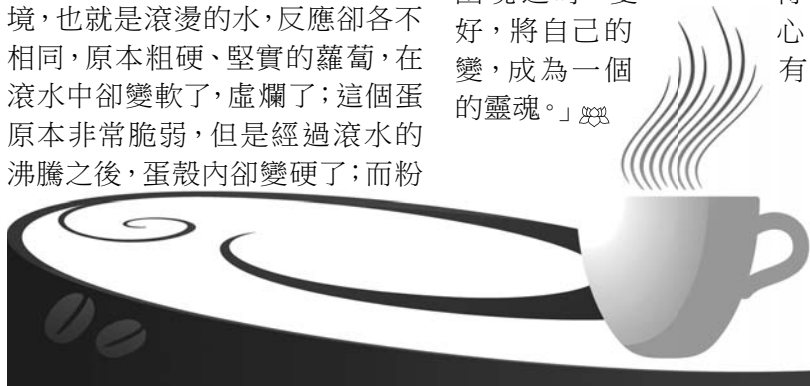
文章出處：網上流傳

羅白、雞蛋與咖啡

一個女兒對她的父親抱怨，說生命是如何如何痛苦、無助，但問題似乎一個接著一個，讓她毫無招架之力。

她是多麼惶然，失去方向。當廚師的父親，二話不說，拉起心愛的女兒的手，走向廚房。他燒了三鍋水，當水滾了之後，他在第一個鍋子裡放進蘿蔔，第二個鍋子裡放了一顆蛋，第三個鍋子中則放進了咖啡。猶疑的女兒望著父親，父親則只是溫柔地握著她的手，示意她不要說話，靜靜地看著滾燙的水，以熾熱的溫度燒滾著鍋裡的蘿蔔、蛋、和咖啡。一段時間過後，父親把鍋裡的蘿蔔、蛋撈起來各放進碗中，把咖啡濾過倒進杯子，問：「寶貝，你看到了什麼？」女兒說：「蘿蔔、蛋和咖啡。」父親解釋，這三樣東西面對相同的逆境，也就是滾燙的水，反應卻各不相同，原本粗硬、堅實的蘿蔔，在滾水中卻變軟了，虛爛了；這個蛋原本非常脆弱，但是經過滾水的沸騰之後，蛋殼內卻變硬了；而粉

末似的咖啡卻非常特別，它竟然改變了水，令滾燙的熱水，變成濃濃的香味。「妳呢？我的女兒，妳是什麼？當逆境來到妳的門前，妳作何反應呢？妳是看似堅強的蘿蔔，但痛苦與逆境到來時，變得軟弱，失去力量嗎？或者妳原本是一顆柔順易爛的蛋，在痛苦與逆境時，有著堅實的心呢？又或許妳的外表看來堅硬如石頭，但妳的心和靈魂已變得又僵又固執？又或者，妳就像咖啡，是一個有彈性、有潛力的靈魂，將那帶來痛苦的沸水改變，當水沸騰到最高點時，水變成了美味的咖啡，愈加美味？我的寶貝女兒，妳要讓逆境摧折妳，還是妳來轉變它，讓身邊的一切人，事物，感覺更美好、更良善？我們不單要像蛋，變得僵硬頑強，更要像咖啡，在經歷死亡、分離、困境之時，變得更好，將自己的心轉變，成為一個有潛力的靈魂。」





特別活動

1) 傳授三皈正戒

佛誕日傳授三皈五戒，由本社住持天因法師為三皈本師，發心皈依受戒者請與本社查詢。

日期：觀音菩薩成道 2009年08月09日 下午1:30

觀音菩薩出家 2009年11月01日 下午1:30

2) 幽冥皈依

幽冥皈依對象是已經往生之先人，由親屬帶領代為皈依，使亡者能不墮三惡道，來生不失人身。

日期：2009年08月29日 下午4:00

2009年12月26日 下午4:00

歡迎投稿

「華嚴園苑」歡迎大家投稿，分享心路歷程，學佛心得。來稿可以中英文撰寫，字數不超過五百字為限。可用以下電子郵箱或郵寄到本社：

E-MAIL: LING.ABLS@GMAIL.COM

請連同姓名、電話，以便聯絡。

請註明：華嚴園苑

銘謝啓事

特別感謝參予本期之中、英文撰稿、翻譯、潤筆、校對、設計等義務工作人員：

傳智法師、法詮法師、天韻法師、胡心圓居士、江常生居士、劉心學居士、鄭衍琴居士、姜悟定居士。

編輯部謹啟





活動預告

1. 觀音菩薩成道法會

日期: 2009年8月9日 8:00AM - 1:00PM

2. 盂蘭盆法會

日期: 2009年8月23日至8月30日 9:00AM - 4:00PM

3. 觀音菩薩出家法會

日期: 2009年11月1日 8:00AM - 1:00PM

4. 年終法會禮拜梁皇寶懺

日期: 2009年12月20日至12月27日 9:00AM - 4:00PM

每月定期共修會

活動項目	日期
虔誦華嚴經	每月第一個星期日
慈悲三昧水懺	每月第二個星期日
華嚴佛一	每月第三個星期日
禮拜藥師寶懺	每月第四個星期日
金剛寶懺	每月第五個星期日

每月慶生日

本社於每月第四個週日禮拜藥師寶懺之餘，更為當月生日者慶生，歡迎預先報名及參加共修，期仰仗三寶加被，福慧增長，事事吉祥，法會中本社備有生日蛋糕供佛供眾，又向當月壽星致送精美生日紀念品，歡迎參加，拈香禮佛，供齋結緣，隨喜功德！

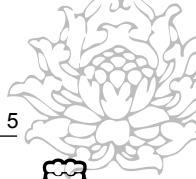




助印功德芳名

金額				
第四期 助印功德芳名				
\$500	成一法師	賢度法師		
\$300	天因法師			
\$150	王春蓮			
\$100	郭天貴			
\$50	天融法師			
\$20	趙寶順	故 黃勇強	黃勇生	
\$10	朱鐵龍			
第五期 助印功德芳名				
\$500	成一法師	賢度法師		
\$300	天因法師			
\$200	劉小梅			
\$100	張年素	故張國鴻	天寧法師	覺明法師
	天融法師			
\$60	陳翠娥			
\$50	會極法師			
\$40	利絲			
\$30	傅楊春美	何楷		
\$20	楊陳秀明	張家禮	楊麗萍	
\$10	Amy Yi Fan	Yelena Pesic		





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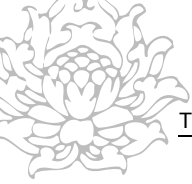
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知福惜福
感恩知足





ANANDA CAUSE & CONDITION

Once in a hot day, Buddha was travelling with his followers. They passed the woods and were having a rest. Buddha then asked Ananda to bring him some water from the stream they had crossed. Ananda ran back and forth for once, twice but returned empty-handed, as the water became very muddy and turbid from the people and animal crossings. Ananda said to Buddha that the water was not drinkable and they should look elsewhere for drinking water. However, Buddha insisted Ananda to return to the same stream. Feeling puzzled, Ananda went back to the stream but now found that the water was clear and pure, because the sand and mud were already settled or washed away. Seeing this, Ananda realized what Buddha was showing him: all phenomena in this world will not remain unchanged forever; they are

dependent upon cause and condition.

In our life journey, it is inevitable that we would encounter smooth as well as rough conditions. Smooth condition yields happiness, rough condition brings upon sufferings. We need to apply Dharma to our everyday life when facing these two extreme conditions. In good times, we should perform good deeds earning merits for helping others, and practice widely the Ten wholesome conducts. We should always bear in mind that all phenomena are marked by impermanence, this will help us to transform our minds, knowing that happiness will not be forever and will disappear.

In adversities, we should remind ourselves that sufferings are also impermanent and will be in passing. We





should take refuge in the Triple Gem and reaffirm our vows to uphold the Dharmas. No matter what the conditions are, joyfulness or sorrows, they are transient and impermanent in nature and therefore will be changed.

“All conditioned dharmas are like dreams, illusions, bubbles, shadows, like dewdrops and flashes of lightening, we have to contemplate them thus.” These are the famous Four Verses in the “Diamond Sutra”. It puts forward the strong message that we should not cling to any forms or things now we have in possession, as they would be gone in one day; do not attach to the things we have lost as we could not possibly have them in possession forever. This is like our joy and happiness in the dreams, it all ends with our waking, and we still

have to face the reality which could be harsh and difficult.

All phenomena in life are delusive, they are not real as our dreams, as bubbles in the water, as the morning dew, as the lightning flashes in the sky, it exists at this moment but gone in the next, will it ever stay?

Therefore, we should not be obsessive of the things and forms in our lives. To accept the different causes and conditions, to live life with a positive attitude and diligently, we would be at ease when facing sorrow and happiness, parting and reunion, care and apathy, failure and success, loss and gain, in our lives.





Story with Inspiration

CAT ON A HOT TIN'S ROOF?

From: Internet Translate by: Lynn

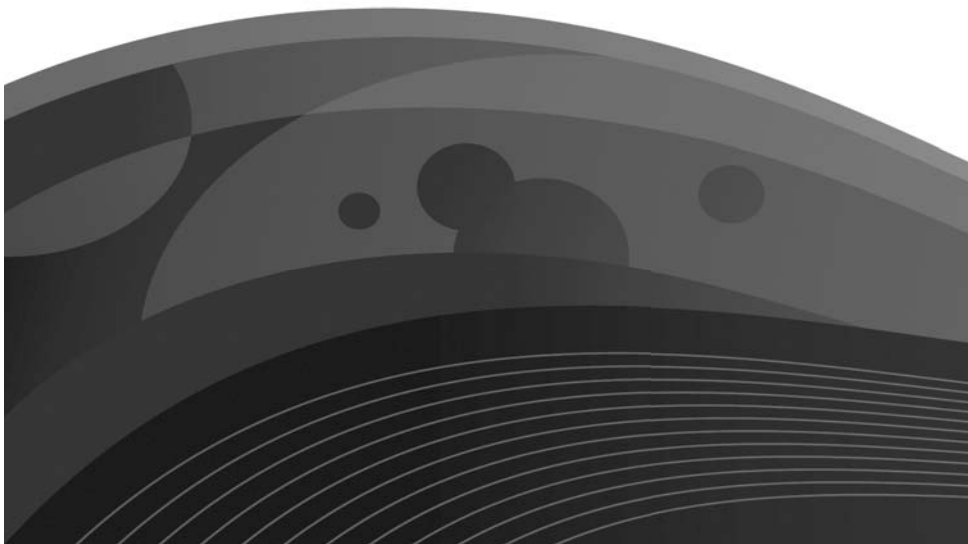
What would you want to be –Tur-nips, Egg or Coffee Bean –in difficult times in life?

It is a late winter's evening. Tom arrives home from a long working hours from work. It is already 11 p.m. He is surprised to see his young daughter sitting quietly on the corner of the living room sofa with the light off. "Oh, Susan, my little girl, you should go to sleep early tonight." Tom says. "Umm, Daddy, I can't sleep and I don't want to live." Susan says sadly .

"OK, my little girl, come with me and I have some things to show you

and you tell me which one you would choose". Tom walks with Susan into their kitchen. Opening the refrigerator, Tom takes out an egg, a turnip and a bag of coffee. Tom carefully put each item in a separate small pot of water and placed them on the family stove. He began to heat them up. Susan watched Tom's action and tried to ask Tom what he was trying to do, but Tom puts a finger on his lips and says "Shhh ...let's wait and observe, and then you will tell me what you see."

Susan patiently looks in the pots and waits and waits. She says, "Nothing, Dad" and then sighed and said,





“This is boring. Umm ..I saw bubbles – the water is boiling.”

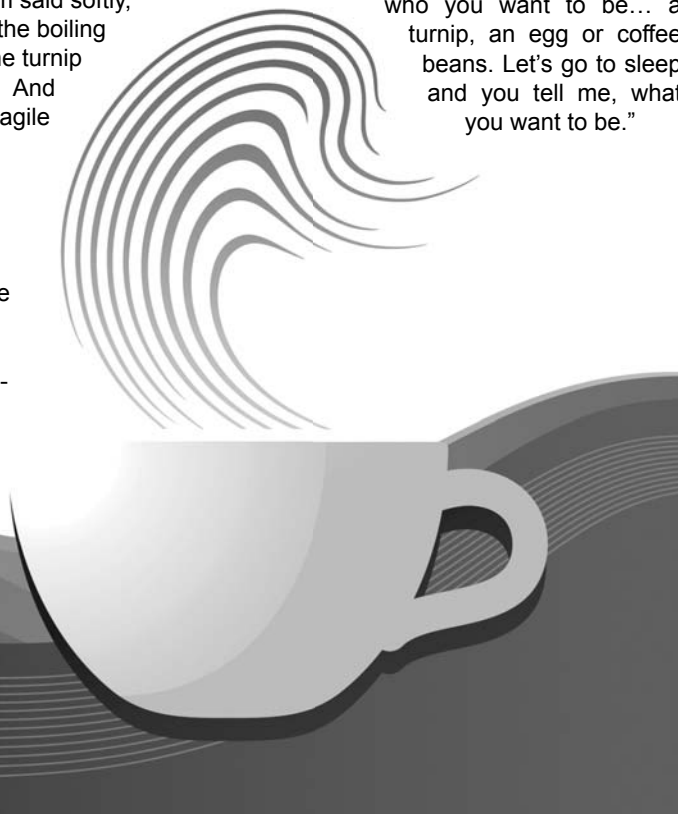
“Let it boil for a while, Susan. You will see.”

A good thirty minutes passed. The hard solid turnip turned soft and mossy when Susan used the fork to poke it. The egg was now a hard boiled egg. The coffee turned the clear water to a dark brown and made the small kitchen fill with the smell of coffee.

“Susan,” Tom said softly, “do you see that the boiling water changed the turnip from solid to soft. And that the tender, fragile egg became a hard boiled egg? Then there is the coffee which has changed the smell of the whole room?” Susan scratched her head. Tom continues to explain. Every change,

even the ones we long for, will bring us some discomfort. But we can choose to be like turnips after boiling and become completely weak, only to dissolve by the change. Or we can be like the egg that is soft and easy to break but becomes solid and firm and will no longer be able to change. Or be like the coffee beans and be able to flow through a room, change and influence not only its environment and but it’s entire surroundings.

“Susan, now you tell me who you want to be... a turnip, an egg or coffee beans. Let’s go to sleep and you tell me, what you want to be.”





MEANING AND ORIGIN OF ULLAMBANA

Ullambana (盂蘭盆節) is a key Mahayana Buddhist concept based on the story of 'Mahamaudgalyayana saving his Mother'. A Sanskrit word, it means, "rescuing those who are hanging upside-down." Traditionally it is referred as 'seeking salvation for the anguished souls in hell'.

By the Buddhist legend, a disciple of Buddha, Mahamaudgalyayana (目犍連尊者 Mogallana or Moelin) on obtaining the six spiritual penetrations uses his Way Eye and meditative skills and finds his deceased mother reborn but tormented with hunger and starvation. Deeply sad, Mahamaudgalyayana started a journey to the netherworld. Finding her in a poor state, he tried feeding to ease her hunger but before she could eat, it all erupted into ball of flames. A dejected Mahamaudgalyayana begged to Sakymuni to provide him a solution to allow salvation for his mother. But Buddha answered; "her past sins are deep and huge for you alone to save". Although your filial respect move the heaven spirits, the earth spirits, twisted demons, and those outside the way, Brahmans, and the four heavenly king gods, are also without sufficient strength. So, the awesome

spiritual power of the ten (community of Monks) 'Sangha' from all ten directions is necessary for salvation to be restored. Buddha also advised Maudgalyayana to make the best offering of five fruits, incense, oil, lamps, candles, beds and bedding to the assembled ten monks of the Order and pray along with them for the salvation of her mother's soul. Also added that such an offering will not only redeem salvation for her mother but also all his kith and kin and forefathers will escape suffering and attain eternal bliss.

The Significance of Ullambana Festival

Ullambana festival chiefly reinforces the concept of filial piety. It signifies the importance of performing "good deeds" to accumulate spiritual merit. Most significant is to share the merit with the departed souls, to help them reborn in good realms and end their suffering.

Legend of Ullambana has passed over ages and is celebrated by Buddhists all over, by holding ceremonies of charity to make the outcast and famished ghosts cross over to salvation. Thus, the 15th day of the seventh moon has become an Occasions for teaching the virtues of filial piety. The date of Ullambana depends on the calendar that is followed, and varies slightly in different parts of the world.

Reference: surfindia.com





CHING MING MEMORIAL DHARMA SERVICES

ABLS held the Ching Ming Memorial Services from March 27 to April 5 chanting "The Avatamsaka Sutra". Elder Chief Ven. Cheng Yi, Ven. Hsien Du, and Abbess Ven. Tien Inn were presided in this memorial services.

During this memorial services venerable took turn to delivering lectures

about the doctrinal of The Avatamsaka Sutra. The first lecture was by Dr. Hsien Du, her speech was attractive. She introduced the practice ways of The Ten Transference. All the attendants enjoyed the Dharma class.



BATHING BUDDHA CEREMONY/ BUDDHA (PRINCE SIDDHARTHA) BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

April 26, 2009, the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society in Milpitas, CA celebrated the birth of Prince Siddhartha, Shakyamuni Buddha. Abbess Ven. Tien Inn presided over the dharma service in which more than 150 devotees attended.

A small golden statue of baby Prince Siddhartha was placed in a bowl of blessed water encircled by garlands of floral arrangements. The service began at eight in the morning. It started with the antiphonal chanting of "Universal Worthy's Conduct and Vow", chapter thirty-six of Flower Adornment Sutra. The liturgy was performed very formally and the dharma assembly prostrated

before the Buddha, alternating between the devotees to the left and right of the temple hall. Afterwards, the devotees proceeded to the center of the hall and bathed the gold figurine with ladles of water, signifying the purgation of defilements and negative influences.

Noon meal offering – ABLS provided a complimentary vegetarian lunch box to all attendees. During lunch, Abb. Ven. Tien Inn further discussed the significance of performing the ceremony of bathing baby Prince Siddhartha. It brings us blessings and cleanses us of self-defilements and sufferings, which in turn helps us achieve inner peace.





GRAND OPENING OF CHENG YI HALL

by Caroline Chu

Finally, the remodeling project of the “Cheng Yi Hall (成一樓)” has completed and the building looks very new from inside to outside. ABLs celebrated the grand opening of the building on the last day of the Ching Ming Dharma Service on April 5, 2009. The building was named after Venerable Master Cheng Yi for his dedication to the Avatamsaka Buddhist Society in Milpitas based.

The ceremony of the grand opening was full of joy and delight. The Elder Master Cheng Yi and the Chairman Dr. Hsien Du lead the crowd during the blessing and prayer event to the new building. For the opening celebration, they both cut the red ribbon and pulled the red cloth cover off from the sign that was hung above the entrance door. There were many other honorable guests participated in this event, and among them was the Milpitas vice Mayor Peter McHugh.

Another important event also happened on the same day that is retirement announcement of the Elder Master Cheng Yi and a stepping up position as new chairman for Dr. Hsien Du. Elder Master Cheng Yi gave a speech covering a short history of Milpitas based the Avatamsaka Buddhist Society. The new chairman Dr. Hsien Du also gave a bilingual speech expressing her

gratitude to the Elder Master Cheng Yi for his over twenty years of support and dedication.

There were almost five hundred people attended the ceremony on that day. All the people attended the ceremony received a very special lucky charm silk bag blessed by Elder Master Cheng Yi.





2009 ABL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD THE 1ST COMMITTEE MEETING

ABLS held the 2nd annual Scholarship award on May 3, 2009 at 2pm. The attendances were: Abbess Ven. Tien Inn, Ven. Tien Yung, Ven. Tien Ling, Anne Hu, Bihru Tsai, Tammy Huang, Ching Lian Poon, Ping Hu, Betty Wang, James Lee.

At the beginning of the meeting Ven. Tien Inn first introduced ABLS is continuing the spirit of Taipei Huayen Lotus Society for consistent teaching and educating promising youth and then holds this Scholarship function. This year we increase application submissions from 1 high school to 4 high schools, they are:

1. Milpitas High School
2. Piedmont Hill High School
3. James Lick High School
4. Independence High School

We also increase number of recipients from 10 to 20 students and do hope more students can benefit from this program.

Based on the past experience, we formed a team of Judging Committee to assist scholarship selections. The goal is to manage award criteria smoothly, so the committee immediately formulated the judging standard, progress charts, judgment methods and so on.

All committee members are enthusiastic and privileged to participate as committee members for the meaningful scholarship award.





AWARD ESSAY FROM ABLS SCHOLAR 2008

By Jennifer Lam

I'd bet that most people today, if asked who has had the most significant influence on them, would say their parents. This is understandable, considering that most parents are actively involved in their children's upbringing. However, as a child, up until I turned fifteen, my parents worked long hours, seven days a week, to support me and my three older brothers. This meant that I did not get to see my parents as often as I would have liked. Some days, I would not even get to see them at all—I would wake up after they left for work and go to bed before they came home. I love my parents, but they are not the people who shaped me to be the person I am today. My oldest brother Brian, who is sixteen years older than I, was responsible for that. He exposed me to a lot of different things as a child. As a result, not only am I a person with a good sense of humor, but I am also responsible and optimistic, eager to learn about and try new things. I also attribute my open-mindedness toward people and experiences to everything my brother has taught me and exposed me to. He also helped foster my dream of becoming a veterinarian and helped get me started with playing guitar.

One of my earliest memories

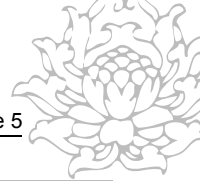
of Brian is of him teaching me how to spell "cat" and "dog"

when I was three. He had bought me a big book full of blank pages, about two by four feet, and every couple of days or so we would draw, write word, or do basic math together in this "journal." As I grew older, he began taking me to different types of museums at least once every month. When I was three he started taking me to the library every week to borrow books. Many of my toys were educational – he liked to buy me toys that stimulated my intellect in some way. He also frequently invited me to spend time with him and his friends; we would usually go biking, camping, river rafting, or just have dinner. I had fun listening to their conversations, which were always intellectually stimulating. Now that I am older, I participate in these conversations as well.

I got my first allowance from Brian when I was in first grade – I was given three dollars a week. He would restrict my access to the money, which was put in an empty Altoid canister and stored in the glove compartment of his car, only letting me spend it if I had good reason. From this experience, I learned not to spend money on unnecessary luxuries, but to save it instead.

Once I had discovered my love for animals as a child, I begged my brother to allow me to keep turtles. He did consent, but only on the condition that I fully researched how to care for





them, I had to present him with a full report of the costs and time I would need to spend on the turtles, as well as how I would take care of them. Throughout my childhood, Brian constantly emphasized to me the importance of responsibility in life.

Because of my love for animals, I decided to become a veterinarian. My goal is to receive a bachelor's degree in biology and then pursue a graduate degree in veterinary medicine. When I started high school, my desire to become a veterinarian did not fade, but Brian wanted to make sure I was serious about the career choice. He asked me to research everything I could about being a veterinarian, which reinforced my desire to pursue the career. It also helped me decide exactly what I want to do as a veterinarian, which is either work with companion animals in a hospital and then eventually open my own private practice, or specialize in exotic animals and work in a zoo.

Volunteering at the humane society also helped reinforce my goal of becoming a vet, I discovered that the local humane society had a student volunteer program a year and a half ago and eagerly signed up for it – having the ability to work with dogs with behavioral problems would greatly benefit me as a veterinarian, not to mention the fact that working with dogs is fun. I started as a Special Student

Volunteer, cleaning dog kennels and interaction with the dogs inside

their kennels. I then took Open Paw classes in order to be able to train the dogs to become more adoptable. I plan on continuing to volunteer at the shelter, even after I go to college. I have been set on becoming a veterinarian since I was young and that determination still has not wavered. Working with animals is something that I feel I can enjoy for the rest of my life.

Brian also bought me my first acoustic guitar over five years ago. Now, I enjoy writing songs and performing, either by myself or with my band, which is comprised of me and four of my friends. I have performed by myself in this year's Milpitas High School Talent Show, winning second place the first night for an original song, and my friend's cotillion. My band, Zoo Story, also performed in the Milpitas High School Talent Show, winning second place the first night, and the Milpitas Got Talent! Show as a special guest performer. Singing and participate in open mics to gain more experience performing in front of an audience and meet other musicians.

I am proud to say that my brother is the person who has had the most significant influence on me; I would not be the person I am today if it were not for him.





IN WAKE OF MY CHINESE HERITAGE AND LEARNING BUDDHISM

by Jalena Lau

Being American Born, I am fortunate to live an ebullient and fruitful life. Unfortunately, I am not so familiar with my Chinese heritage (I'm what you can call ABC (American Born Chinese)). Just a few months ago I was introduced to the temple of the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society (ABLS). However, I became a member of this temple through some unfortunate events. My grandma had recently passed away from lung cancer.

When she left, our family was left empty and devastated. In search of comfort, we luckily stumbled across this temple. Like most temples, they were altruistic and greeted us with open arms. But the feeling was different compared to all the other temples we have come across. For seven plus weeks, my family and I attended the temple every Sunday, and every time we were treated like family. Although like new members of the family, we were indistinct of the temple's origin.

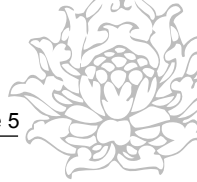
During the sixth and seventh week of our attendance, a new master had arrived. He was a commended man of 96 years of age, and an appearance similar to the Kung Fu masters on television. I was ambiguous of his reason for arrival, but curious at the same time. He was known as the well-respected Cheng Yi, who established the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society in 1985.

I was amazed by his backbreaking story of trying to construct such a highly acclaimed facility. On the sixth Sunday of my attendance, the schedule was unusual. The new building of which I was so inquisitive about, was going to be revealed.

Throughout the Grand Opening Ceremony, Cheng Yi seemed excited and surprised by the number of people who showed up for this glorious moment. His whole life's work put into this one moment.

When we toured the building, I was overwhelmed by its extravagant structure and beauty. His devotion to Buddhism and the teachings to the older and younger generations reflected a lot of motivation and commitment. That was then, when I realized what hard-work was, and the obstacles you have to overcome in order to conquer your dreams.





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Triple Gem Refuge and Five Precepts Ceremony

When a person wishes to become a Buddhist, the first step he takes is to go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for refuge. Since Buddha's time, taking this Threefold Refuge has identified a person as a Buddhist. The Buddha, Dharma and Sangha also known as the Triple Gem represent qualities which are excellent and precious like a gem. Once a person recognizes these unique qualities after careful consideration and is confident that the Triple Gem can help lead him towards happiness and Enlightenment, he or she takes refuge. It is, therefore, not out of mere faith but with an open-minded attitude and enquiring spirit that he begins to practice the Buddha's Teachings.

Guan-Yin Renunciation

Date: November 1, 2009 1:30PM

Refuge Taking Ceremony for the Deceased

A family representative will attend a Threefold Refuge ceremony on behalf of his/her deceased family member. Taking refuge is the first step on the path to Enlightenment. Even if Enlightenment is not achieved in this life, by taking refuge in the Triple Gem, the deceased Buddhist is more likely to have favorable conditions for attaining Enlightenment in a future life.

Date: August 29, 2009 4:00 pm

Date: December 27, 2009 4:00 pm



SPECIAL EVENTS

Monthly Birthday Blessings

On the last Sunday of each month, there will be chanting of the Bhaiṣajyaguru (Medicine Buddha) Repentance and Offerings to the Buddhas. For those whose birth dates fall within that month, you can participate

by joining in this chanting assembly and receive special blessings of good health and fortune. For more details, please contact our office.





CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1) Ullambana Festival and Sangha Day Celebration

Date: August 23 to August 30, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

2) Commemoration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisatta (Guan-Yin) Renunciation

Date: November 1, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

3) Year-End Service Liang Huang (Liang Emperor) Repentance

Date: December 20 to December 27, 2009

Time : 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

4) The Past Vows of Ksitigarbha (Earth Store) Bodhisattva Sutra

Date: December 1 to December 19, 2009 (Mon – Saturday)

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:45 PM

LIGHT OFFERING TO AVALOKITESVARA (GUAN YIN) BODHISATTVA

November 1, 2009 is a day to commemorate the renunciation of Avalokitesvara (Guan Yin) Bodhisattva. There will be light offerings on that day. We cordially invite you to join us on this blissful occasion. Those interested, please register at our office.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES: (8AM – 1:30PM)

EVENTS	TIME
Avatamsaka (Hua-yen) Sutra	Every First Sunday
Samadhi Water Repentance	Every Second Sunday
1-day Avatamsaka (Hua-yen) Retreat	Every Third Sunday
Bhaisajyaguru (Medicine Buddha) Repentance	Every Fourth Sunday
Diamond Repentance	Every Fifth Sunday





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