



淨土通訊 Pure Land Newsletter

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淨土念佛堂、圖書館

Pure Land Center & Buddhist Library

地址 (Address): 1120 E. Ogden Avenue, Suite 108
Naperville, IL 60563, USA

網址 (Website): <http://www.amitabhalibrary.org>

電話 (Tel): (630) 428-9941、傳真 (Fax): (630) 428-9961

發行人：林麗淑

主編：譚祖德

排版：編輯室

印光大師法語菁華——說五戒要義 (2)

Foremost Quotes from Great Master Yinguang — The Essence of the Five Precepts (2)

引自護國息災法會第八日開示：法會既圓說三歸五戒十善及做人念佛各要義
From a lecture made by Great Master Yinguang at a retreat

不偷盜者。即是見得思義。非予不取也。此事凡稍知廉恥者。皆能不犯。但人非聖賢。孰能無過。蓋私欲一起。則易為情遷。若大利當前。能避之若蛇蠍。狂奔急避者。亦不易見也。且所謂盜。並非專指盜人財物而言。即居心行事。有類于盜者。亦即為盜。如假公濟私。損人利己。恃勢取財。用計謀物。忌人富貴。願人貧賤等皆是。

又如陽取為善之名。及至遇諸善事。心不真誠。事多敷衍。如設義學。則不擇嚴師。誤人子弟。施醫藥。則不辨真假。誤人性命。遇見急難。則漠不急救。延緩游移。每致誤事。一切敷衍塞責。不顧他人利害。虛糜公帑。貽誤公益者。實皆同盜。人皆心存盜心。事做盜事。社會遂以腐亂。天下亦不太平矣。故須嚴重戒盜。

No Stealing

When taking objects, the correct way is to only take what is given. Those who know what is ethically right or wrong will not transgress this rule. We are not sages; who among us has not committed a wrongdoing? One is easily driven by one's emotions when craving arises. It is rare for one to reject and run away quickly from a big interest like one runs away to avoid a poisonous snake or a scorpion. Moreover, stealing is not limited to material objects. It also relates to having thoughts akin to stealing. For example, for selfish reasons, one uses one's power to damage or to take benefits from others, or one is jealous of others' wealth and likes to see others' poverty. All of these are stealing.

In addition, on the surface one appears to be doing beneficial things, but in reality, lacks sincerity and only makes a partial effort. For example, one establishes a tuition-free school, but does not select teachers with high standards. Therefore, the students learn incorrectly or only partially. One donates medications, but neglects to pay attention to whether the medication is really helpful and it leads to recipients' loss of health or life. One sees others' urgent needs, but does not extend help in a timely fashion and, thus, worsens the situation. One does everything with partial sincerity, does not care about others' well being or wastes public funds and damages interests of the public, and so on. All of these are considered stealing. If everyone has a mind of stealing and behaves accordingly, society

will gradually become chaotic and the country will gradually lose order. Therefore, one must seriously adhere to not stealing.

十週年館慶報恩法會報導

Report —Celebration Retreat for the 10th Anniversary and New Center Opening Completed

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館十週年館慶暨新道場落成啓用開幕典禮及報恩法會已於五月二十四日至五月二十八日圓滿舉行。詳細請參閱下附圖文報導及同修投書。

The celebration retreat for the 10th anniversary and new center opening on May 24 through 28, 2013 concluded well. Details can be found in Pictures and Narratives below as well as the article from a Dharma friend who participated in the event.

中元祭祖公告

Announcement —Chung-Yuan Ceremony of Paying Respect to Ancestors

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)

本館於上一期的淨土通訊中已曾公告，自今年起，將固定於春秋兩季舉行祭祖典禮。

今年秋季中元祭祖訂於八月二十五日(星期日) 供佛之日下午二時至三時半舉行，歡迎各界同修前來參加。

The center announced in the last issue of Pure Land News that beginning this year, the center would hold twice every year the Ceremony of Paying Respect to Ancestors in the spring and in the autumn respectively.

The autumn ceremony for the Chung-Yuan Festival of this year will be held on August 25 (Sunday), from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. August 25 will also be the day for the regular monthly meal offering to the Buddha ceremony. We welcome all friends to join.

十週年館慶暨新道場落成啓用開幕典禮及報恩法會 圖文報導

Pictures and Narratives—Celebration Retreat for the 10th Anniversary and New Center Opening Ceremony

法會之前 (Prior to the Celebration Retreat)

● 編輯室 (Editor's Room)



四月底林館長專程前往香港，親自遞送新道場開幕典禮邀請函給淨空老法師；老法師也專為芝加哥及北美同修講了一段開示，敦勸大眾老實念佛。

In late April, Director Lin made a special trip to Hong Kong to deliver, in person, the invitation card to Venerable Master Chin Kung. Although he could not come, he made a short speech specifically for the Dharma friends in Chicago area as well as for those in the North America in which he urged everyone to simply be mindful of Amitabha Buddha.

開幕典禮 (In the Opening Ceremony)



林館長致歡迎詞
Director Lin delivered welcome address



駐芝加哥臺北經濟文化辦事處葛蓀萱處長致詞
Director General of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Chicago addressed



貴賓於剪彩儀式後合影
Guests took picture together after ribbon cutting



弟子規班學童背誦弟子規
The students of DiZiGui class recited *DiZiGui*



林館長與 弟子規 班老師、結業學童及家長合影
Director Lin pictured together with the graduation students of the DiZiGui class, the teacher, and parents



林館長與貴賓們於開幕典禮後合影
Director Lin pictured together with special guests after the opening ceremony

報恩法會 (In the Retreat and after)



悟和法師與接受皈依的同修合影

Venerable Wu He pictured together with the Dharma friends who took the Three Refuges during the celebration event



三時繫念法會開始

The Thrice Yearning Ceremony retreat began



莊嚴的法會現場

The retreat audience



法會中於地藏殿前禮拜

During ceremony, the hosts and venerable prepared to prostrate in front of altar of the Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva



多位法師蒞臨參加共修早課

Many venerable joined the morning chanting practice



悟行法師主持佛前大供

Venerable Wu Shin conducted the Meal Offering to the Buddha Ceremony



法師與悅眾於法會後合影

Venerable and instrument team pictured together after the retreat



小菩薩們於法會後合掌與法師合影

Little Bodhisattvas put palms together and pictured with Venerable Wu Shin after the retreat

同修投書 — 十年淨土結深緣 新址啓用利十方

From a Dharma Friend—Deep Affinity from the Ten Years, New Center Benefits All Dharma Friends

● 蔡珮 (Pei Cai)

● 譚祖德 譯 (Translated by Bert Tan)

十年的光陰，不太長也絕不算短，無論是個人還是機構，都足以因為精進和專注，而沉澱出令人欣慰的成果。十餘年前，因著林麗淑館長聽聞淨空老法師宣講《無量壽經》，而生起歡喜恭敬之心，繼而接觸淨土法門，研習經教，流通法寶，再到租借場地，於 2003 年五月正式成立『芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館』，並附設念佛堂，由是凝聚了芝城方圓內一群歸心淨土的義工和同修們，也一併與阿彌陀佛結了深緣。

十年來，圖書館堅持不懈地做著公共借書、佛學經論與法物流通、世界學術機構的乾隆大藏經贈送、每週念佛共修與學佛講座、兒童《弟子規》教學、州立重刑監獄弘法佈道等廣泛利益社會和大眾的各項服務。迨至去年底，因緣成熟諸事具備，位於瑞柏主幹道東 Ogden Avenue 1120 號永久新址的選擇終於確定，再經設計裝修及原館資料的搬遷，即於五月二十五日至二十七日的 Memorial Day 長週末，在該新址舉行了十週年館慶及新道場落成啓用開幕典禮。

考慮到原名『芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館』，易為大眾誤解，以為館內只有佛學藏書的借閱服務，也為了凸顯新道場是十方淨土學人的專修專學之所，便將其更名為簡明易識的『淨土念佛堂暨圖書館』。

二十五日上午的開幕典禮，林麗淑館長首先致歡迎辭，她回顧了自 2003 年 5 月成立以來的十年，圖書館凝心聚力所做的各項弘法利生服務，讓來賓們深為感慨贊歎。接著代理市長市議會議員 Ms. Judith Brodhead 代表地方政府致辭，她感謝淨土念佛堂暨圖書館在中西多元文化交流和佛教理念弘揚方面，為地方上所做的貢獻。隨後駐芝加哥臺北經濟文化辦事處葛葆

萱處長亦致辭，贊揚圖書館在海外弘揚中國優秀傳統文化的孜孜努力。瑞柏圖書館館長代表 Ms. Karen Dunford 則作為同業致敬，並說將在本地圖書館系統的網絡上，聯接並詳細推介淨土念佛堂暨圖書館的豐富館藏資源和各項服務。遠自臺灣而來的佛教界代表，雲林淨宗學會會長悟和法師則在致辭中讚歎淨土念佛堂暨圖書館在護持佛法、弘揚佛法上所體現的精進和奉獻的人間菩薩精神。

在剪綵儀式後，接著是《弟子規》學習班學童們的結業典禮和文娛表演。傳統的中國文化歷來重視兒童啓蒙的道德教育，《弟子規》是淨空老法師一直推崇的經典讀本，圖書館數年來秉承師訓堅持開辦《弟子規》學習班，讓優秀傳統文化能夠在海外華人子弟中薪火相傳，生生不息。《弟子規》班的全體學員先背誦了《弟子規》，接著分別表演了中國民歌、小提琴、太極拳、少林功夫、笛子、古箏等各類才藝。另外，特邀的知名二胡演奏家項蓓星女士帶來的二胡名曲演奏，讓現場的中外嘉賓們屏氣凝神，陶醉其中，也為整個開幕典禮劃上了一個優雅完美的句點。

在二十五日下午和接下來的二十六日、二十七日，道場特別禮請澳洲淨宗學院執行院長悟行法師、臺灣雲林淨宗學會會長悟和法師主法，由加拿大多倫多般若講堂照續法師、芝加哥光明寺住持明行法師，加州 Gotama Temple 常樂法師以及本地的其他幾位越南裔法師共同參與，和來自大芝加哥地區以及印地安那、威斯康辛、華府、休士頓、北京、南京的近百位學佛同修一起，在淨土念佛堂暨圖書館虔誠念佛並啓建了兩場「三時繫念佛事」法會，通過供佛、誦經、念佛、開示、懺悔、發願、唱讚等莊嚴的儀規，為法界眾生祈福，為世界和平祝禱，願人人都能恢復自己本具之清淨佛性，願人間當下便是極樂淨土，願佛法的慈悲和智慧伴隨淨土念佛堂暨圖書館，走過未來一個又一個精進修學、自利利人的十年。

(蔡珮居士來自蘇州，自 2008 年 5 月開始參加本館共修)

Over the ten years, the library has provided library services to communities; circulated and distributed Buddhist text and Dharma items; donated the Qianlong Great Buddhist Canon to academic and research institutes worldwide; offered weekly services, Dharma lectures, and children's classes as well as Buddhism classes to prisoners at correctional centers in Illinois, and many other programs to the general public. Late last year, conditions became mature and the new center's site was selected - at 1120 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL. After remodeling, a massive effort to move from the old location, and preparation, we had the ceremony on the Memorial Day holiday weekend, May 25 through May 27, to celebrate the 10th anniversary and the opening of the new center.

Ten years, not a long time but by no means a short time, is adequate to allow an individual or an organization to produce incredible results from their dedication, diligence, and focus on anything. More than ten years ago, an opportunity exposed Director Lin to a Venerable Master Chin Kung's lecture on the *Infinite Life Sutra*. From there arose her interest in the Dharma and great respect for it. She began to practice the Pure Land school teaching, study sutras, and circulate Dharma treasures. Next, she rented a place and founded the Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago in May 2003. The library had a chanting room. Many Dharma friends who also follow the Pure Land School teaching began to gather together. These friends thus made good affinities with Amitabha Buddha.

Considering that its old name "Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago" had caused many people to mistakenly think it has library services only, and to clarify that this is a center focused on practicing Pure Land school teachings, its name was changed to "Pure Land Center and Buddhist Library."

In the Opening Ceremony on May 25, Director Lin first delivered a warm welcome. She also shared with the guests all the services the center provided in the last ten years. This earned praise from many participants. Ms. Judith Brodhead, the Councilwoman who represented Mr. George Pradel, the Mayor of the City of Naperville, addressed her thanks to the center for its contribution to the communities in promoting cultural diversity, cultural exchange, and Buddhist education. Mr. Pao Xuan Ger, the Director General of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Chicago, then delivered his address. He accredited the center's efforts and results of promoting Chinese culture worldwide. Ms. Karen Dunford, the Naper Blvd. Library Manager, who represented the Executive Director of the Naperville Public Library, also delivered her address and expressed the possibility to link the center to Naperville Public Library's website as a resource for Buddhist materials and services. Last, the Buddhist representative, the president of the Pure Land Association in Yun-Ling, Taiwan, Venerable Wu He, praised the center greatly during his address for its devotion in spreading the Dharma.

After the ribbon cutting was the children's performance program to demonstrate the result of the *DiZiGui* class. Chinese culture emphasizes moral education during childhood. *DiZiGui* has always been the guiding book recommended by Venerable Master Chin Kung for children to begin to learn. The center has followed the recommendation and offered children's classes over many years. This introduces the outstanding values of the Chinese culture and allows the continuation of these values overseas in Chinese communities generations after generation. The children recited *DiZiGui* first, followed by folk songs, violin music, martial arts of Tai Chi and Shao-Lin, flute music, Chinese Zheng music, etc. Ms. Betti Xiang, a special guest and a famous Chinese musician, performed Erhu music. The guests were captivated by her performance and enjoyed it deeply. This performance concluded the celebration and the opening ceremony perfectly.

On May 26 & 27, the Center invited Venerable Wu Shin, the Executive Vice President of the Pure Land Learning College Association in Australia and Venerable Wu He, the president of the Pure Land Association in Yun-Ling, Taiwan to host the Thrice Yearning Ceremonies on the two days respectively. There were more than a hundred participants. They included the Abbot Venerable Zhao Xu from the Prajna Temple in Toronto Canada, the Abbot Venerable Minh Han from the Quang Minh Temple in Chicago, Venerable Chang Le from the Gotama Temple in California, and many other venerables and friends from Indiana; Wisconsin; Washington DC; Houston, Texas; Beijing, China; and Nanjing, China. By following the awesome ceremonial procedures, we all prayed for peace and harmony for the world beings. The procedures included meal offering, sutra recitation, Buddha name chanting, repentance, vowing to become enlightened, etc. We all vowed to return to the fundamental purity and clarity of our Buddha nature and for the world to become a Pure Land. May the great compassion and Prajna of the Dharma accompany the Pure Land Center and Buddhist Library for its many tens years to come to benefit ourselves as well as all others.

(Ms. Pei Cai came from Su Zhou, China; she joined the center in May, 2008)

